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➤ **PAGE 19**

WORLD



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➤ **PAGE 21**

LIFE & STYLE



Horror films equal happiness for ac-
tor Elijah Wood.

➤ **PAGE 24**

WITHOUT LABOR, IMMIGRATION PLAN IN PLACE:

'Foreign workers face more abuses'

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The senior Democrat on the U.S. House Education and the Workforce Committee, Rep. George Miller (D-Calif.), took the cudgels once again for foreign workers in the CNMI who he said will be in jeopardy of suffering more abuses without a plan in place to ensure that labor and immigration complaints are handled properly.



» **Miller urges Interior to reconsider closure of US Labor Ombudsman's Office**

This is in response to plans by the U.S. Department of the Interior to close the Labor Ombudsman's Office in the CNMI at the end of fiscal year 2013 after 14 years in operation.

Miller is a former chair and ranking member of the U.S. House Committee on Natural Resources, which has oversight over insular areas such as the CNMI.

He wrote to Interior Secretary Sally Jewell on June 27 to raise concerns about the Interior's decision to close the Ombudsman's Office.

Miller said he's not reassured by the claims of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs that the Ombudsman's Office's operations "would be successfully de-

See ABUSES on Page 4

LibDay spirits up despite rain

By REINA S. PEREZ
STUDENT REPORTER

Heavy rain drenched the start of the 68th Liberation Day Parade yesterday morning but that failed to dampen spirits,

with hundreds of spectators lining up from Guano Rai to the Civic Center in Susupe to watch the annual celebration.

According to Liberation Day committee chair Vicente Camacho, there was no real delay other than the heavy

rain in the beginning of the parade. "The parade went on time," he added.

A spectator told *Saipan Tribune* that she still enjoyed this year's parade despite the rainy weather.

According to Camacho, the crowd just got bigger and bigger despite the rain. "I want to thank the community. This

See RAIN on Page 4



The Commonwealth Cyclers share the theme "Share the Road" during the 68th Liberation Day Parade Thursday morning, July 4.

REINA S. PEREZ

See more photos on Page 8

LibDay celebrates 'gift of freedom'

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Freedom not being free and the sacrifices of the country's men in uniform to preserve it has been a recurring theme in this year's Liberation Day celebration, so it was fitting that the islands' top executive, Gov. Eloy S. Inos, reiterated this during his speech in yesterday morning's 68th Lib-

See FREEDOM on Page 4

MORE INSIDE

➤ Federal rule could upend shark fin bans. **PAGE 5**



➤ Hawaii comics perform tonight at Fiesta. **PAGE 14**

➤ Yvette proud to finish in Top 15. **PAGE 17**

Saipan firm settles sex harassment suit for \$65K. PAGE 16
American Samoa citizenship lawsuit dismissed. PAGE 18

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Audit: PSS net assets dip \$7M; deficit up by \$5.9M

The Public School System's net assets dropped last fiscal year while its overall deficit substantially grew, according to the latest audit report released by the Board of Education.

According to the audit report, the system's net assets at the close of fiscal year 2012 amounted to \$52.633 million—a decline of \$7.658 million from fiscal year 2011's \$60.291 million. The drop was primarily attributed to the \$2.7-million increase in accrued unfunded retirement contributions and insufficient funding from the local government to finance PSS operations.

PSS net assets include: capital assets; net of accumulated depreciation, \$81.033 million; capital improvement projects in progress, \$1.8 million; and a deficit of \$30.386 million.

The audit also showed that the system incurred an overall deficit of \$31.386 million last fiscal year, which translates to a \$5.9-million increase over fiscal year 2011's deficit of \$25.465 million. The growth is 23 percent, which means PSS needs \$31.386 million for it to pay all its creditors, including the NMI Retirement Fund.

"If the level of appropriation continue to drop, it would not be sufficient to finance current operations and the deficit will continue to increase," noted independent auditor J. Scott Magliari.

In terms of revenue, PSS recorded total revenues of \$64.785 million last fiscal year—a 26-percent drop from fiscal year 2011's \$88.242 million or a variance of \$23.4 million. Revenue in fiscal year 2011 was artificially bloated by funds received under the American Recovery Reinvestment Act. That funding source is over, hence the drop in this year's revenue level.

Meantime, PSS' total expenses decreased by \$24.1 million—or 25 percent—compared to fiscal year 2011's. The system posted total expenses of \$72.4 million last fiscal year against fiscal year 2011's \$96.6 million. The decline is due to expendi-

tures authorized through funding from ARRA in 2011.

Retirement

The audit report also indicated that, as of Sept. 30, 2012, PSS' payable to the Retirement Fund amounted to \$23.077 million. However, the amount due from PSS based on actuarially determined rate including interest amounted to \$36.2 million. Pursuant to a court order, PSS only recognized a liability based on the percentage the court ordered PSS to remit to the Fund.

"PSS believes that the difference of \$13.2 million is due from the CNMI central government and not from PSS," the audit stated.

PSS' contributions to the Fund for the years ending Sept. 30, 2012, 2011, and 2010 were: \$2.358 million; \$4.255 million; and \$8.492 million, respectively. (Moneth G. Deposa)

Man allegedly tried to hit stepkid with hot frying pan

A 49-year-old man was arrested for allegedly trying to hit his stepdaughter with a hot frying pan at his home on Airport Road Wednesday morning.

David Borja Roberto was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon and disturbing the peace, sources told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

A \$5,250 cash bail was imposed. Roberto is expected to be taken to Superior Court today, Friday, for his initial appearance.

Sources said that, based on preliminary police investigation, Roberto was cooking on the second floor of the two-story apartment building when he had an argument with his stepdaughter.

During the argument, Roberto allegedly picked up the hot frying pan and swung it toward her. The stepdaughter was not hit and she then called police. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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Fund is urged to reconsider closing Rota satellite office

Rota lawmakers asked the NMI Retirement Fund to reconsider its decision to close its satellite office on Rota in August this year. The Fund also plans to close its satellite office on Tinian to save on operational costs.

The four-member Rota Legislative Delegation, chaired by Rep. Teresita Santos (R-Rota), wrote a July 3 letter to acting Fund administrator Lillian Pangelinan, raising concerns about the planned closure, specifically on "further disenfranchising Rota retirees and residents," while at the same time recognizing the Fund's financial problems.

Santos said Rota retirees will also have hardship in "faxing, pouching and/or obtaining documents regarding the NMI Retirement Fund."

"With the foregoing reasons, the proposed closure of the Rota satellite office has adverse consequences; therefore the leaders of Rota humbly request that you reconsider such proposal. Otherwise with this letter, the leaders of Rota would like to meet with you to discuss and seek other available options to ensure the continuity of the satellite Office on Rota," Santos told Pangelinan.

Santos also said it is her understanding that the Fund "plans to transfer the Rota satellite office employee to the Saipan office which would require the employee to leave his/her home and family, and incur additional living expenses, including housing and land transportation, on Saipan."

"This may not be a suitable arrangement for the employee," she added.

The Fund has yet to respond to the Rota lawmakers' request as of yesterday.

The Fund earlier assured its members on the two islands that they will not be without service once the closures takes effect. The Fund said after Aug. 15, the Saipan office will provide service to its members on Rota and Tinian via telephone, email, and facsimile.

The Fund expects to save \$30,000 annually for each office, totaling \$60,000 a year. (Haidee V. Eugenio)

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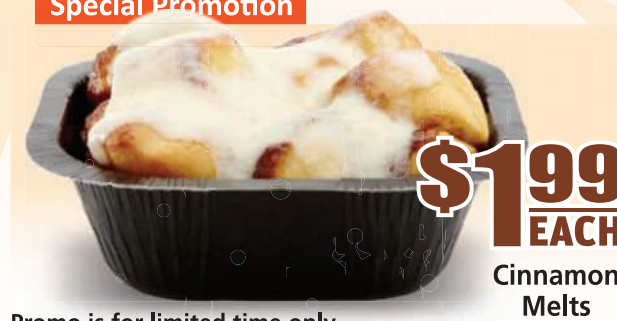
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Hospital's stability is top priority, says administration

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

The Inos administration says it has yet to come up with a position whether or not it supports any plan to privatize the Commonwealth Health Center because there is a more pressing issue that needs to be addressed: the stability of the public hospital.

Press secretary Angel A. Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* Wednesday that whether or not CHC needs to be privatized will greatly depend on the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. board. "The administration is considering all its options at this time [but] the first priority is to stabilize CHCC, including having a permanent management team.

Right now, this is a function of the CHCC board," said Demapan. The corporation has yet to hire a replacement CEO since the departure of Juan N. Babauta early this year. The post is currently occupied in an acting capacity by Esther Muña, who is the organization's chief operating officer. "Once the board moves for-

ward with whatever recommendations it has for management then the administration will continue discussions as to the future of the hospital and the other components of the corporation," said Demapan.

The corporation formally

took over the hospital's operation in fiscal year 2011. The organization was only allocated \$5 million in seed capital during its first year, \$1.9 million in the second year, and is now being proposed the same amount for the new fiscal year.

The Department of Public Health, which used to run the hospital, used to get a \$36-million budget each year. According to Demapan, the corporation is in the process of completing its separation from the central government.

FREEDOM

From Page 1

eration Day Program.

"As we celebrate Independence Day and our Liberation Day, we pay proper tribute to the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces, to the veterans who served our country with honor and distinction, and to the men and women who continue to risk their lives for the good of our country. Truly, we have lost far too many, but their sacrifices shall never be forgotten," Inos said.

While the Fourth of July is a day to recognize America's Independence Day, it is also special for the people of the CNMI because it's the Commonwealth's own Liberation Day.

July 4, 2013, commemorates the 68th anniversary of America's victory in the battle for Saipan as well as the opening of the gates of Chalan Kanoa where many of the island's forebears were kept after World War II. Saipan was a colony of Japan during the Pacific War.

"Our islands have tremendously changed over the course of the past six decades. We have experienced an overwhelming transformation since our local people were finally released from Camp Susupe at the end of the war.

"Some 69 years later, we have grown and prospered. Our children are afforded the benefits of a better education and a host of educational opportunities. Hotels and golf courses now stand on grounds that were once war-

torn. Commercial airlines have replaced fighter jets and bombers in our skies," he added.

'Pivot to the Pacific'

Keynote speaker Lt. Col. Howard Eyth, the commanding officer of the Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, spoke at length about the CNMI's strategic importance to the U.S. military as well as the country's defense of freedom.

"Just last year my squadron had the great fortune of participating in two new and significant military exercises hosted in the CNMI known as Exercises Geiger and Forager Fury 2012. In a clear example of the United States' 'pivot to the Pacific,' hundreds of Marines and sailors visited Tinian for a month in May and again in December to gain valuable training, affording marked improvements in individual and unit proficiency, and resulting in the increased readiness of our force to respond in the event of crisis or contingency anywhere in our ever more important region of the world," he said.

Because of the training on Tinian, Eyth said his squadron is now better prepared and more ready than ever to accomplish its mission, which range from rapid response to natural disasters in the form of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, to kinetic, combat operations in defense of the U.S. and its people.

"Historic North and West Fields were once again the scenes of military cantonment sites, complete with life support

including water purification, fuel distribution, heavy equipment and motor transportation, engineering and communications capabilities, medical and dental services facilitating expeditionary airfield operations in support of the exercises, as well as local community outreach projects. The result was seen in a number of tangible improvements in the quality of life in the community on island, as well as the first landing and take-off of aircraft on Baker Runway, North Field, Tinian since the end of World War II," he added.

He also paid tribute to the brave soldiers who paid the ultimate sacrifice to preserve the country's freedom during World War II.

"With an eye on history, lest we forget the sacrifices of those who gave the last full measure to secure these islands in the turbulent summer months of June and July 1944, we cannot properly appreciate the challenges, opportunities, and successes of the present and future."

Among those who attended the program were Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hoffschneider, Saipan Mayor Donald A. Flores, Barrigada Guam Mayor June Blas, Tinian Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz, Rep. Janet U. Maratita (IR-Saipan), Lt. Kenneth McCain of the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Army Reserve Staff Sgt. Mike Abrams, Calvary Christian Church pastor Scott Norman, 2013 Liberation Day chair Vicente Camacho, and 2013 Liberation Day Queen Nicole Ichihara Sablan.

Man gets 2-year sentence for burglary at Agriculture

Another defendant in a burglary at the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, Division of Agriculture, has pleaded guilty and was slapped with a two-year prison sentence.

Jay Muña pleaded guilty to theft Tuesday at a change of plea hearing.

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo sentenced Muna to five years in prison, all suspended except for two years.

Govendo said the two-year sentence shall be served day-for-day without the possibility of parole, with credit for the 188 days that Muña has already served in jail.

Upon his release, Muña will be placed on probation for five years. He was required to pay a \$500 fine, \$100 in court costs, and \$500 in probation fees. He was ordered to perform 400 hours of community service.

During his probation, Muña is prohibited from having direct or indirect contact with both the CNMI Parks and Recreation Office in As Perdido and the CNMI Health Services Building.

The Office of the Attorney General had charged Muña with two counts of theft, two counts of possession or removal of government property, one count of conspiracy to commit theft,

and one count of conspiracy to commit possession or removal of government property.

By pleading guilty to a count of theft, the other charges against Muña were dropped.

Muna was represented by Brien Sers Nicholas.

According to the plea agreement, Muña stole a bush cutter from DLNR Division of Agriculture in August 2012.

Muña and three others were also charged in connection with the burglary at the Division of Agriculture and at the Division of Parks and Recreations in As Lito on Dec. 25, 2012. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)

RAIN

From Page 1

parade was a success because the community came out."

The is year's Liberation Day theme was "The Spirit of Cooperation: Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness." The Grand Marshall was David Kapileo Peter.

The winner of the float competition was the Seventh Day Adventist Pathfinders Club float, which had the theme "Go Green for God-The Creators Call to Conservation" and looked like an island rising from the sea, decorated with large animal figures made from recycled products.

Second place went to the Peleliu Athletes Club's float, which resembled a native hut, complete with palm fronts for the roof and walls.

The Lion's Club International's float came in third followed by the Paper Dolls float, which

placed fourth.

The parade itself kicked off with the Matua Riders. The Department of Public Safety Color Guard followed along with the Pride of the Pacific Marching Alliance, the Navy-Marching Unity, and the Public School System JROTC.

2012 Liberation Queen Liddy Rose Pangelinan and her Royal Princess Maria Angelica Babac Masasarte were joined by 2013 Guam Liberation Queen Ealani Alvarez Lobaton.

The United Filipino Organization's performance of Gangnam Style along with performances by Saipan's Falun Dafa Association and the Saipan Awaodori Club were well applauded.

The NMI Football Association showcased their soccer skills, while Coca-Cola gave away free ice cream, juice boxes, and soda drinks to the crowd. The Red Cross Disaster Team gave away small gifts to the crowd.

The Paper Dolls float, which featured contestants from the Super Pinoy Gay Model contest held during the Philippine Liberation Day celebration, made a splash with their gay pride-themed parade.

The parade ended with the arrival of the 2013 Liberation Day Queen Nicole Ichihara Sablan and her royal court.

"I'm very happy. There are many people to thank and it will take a long time to personally thank everyone who was a part of [the parade]," Liberation Day chair Camacho.

One spectator who had been waiting for the parade since 10:30 said that she and her family have made it a tradition to always watch the parade. She said the difference between former parades and this year's is the rainy weather, location, and that there were "not that much fun stuff compared to the past." She says she tries to enjoy the parade because it is her son's first.

ABUSES

From Page 1

involved onto the office of the CNMI Field Representative and other local and federal agencies."

"The plans for this transition are preliminary at best and do not inspire confidence that these cases will be handled with the due diligence and care they rightly deserve," Miller told Jewell in a one-page letter, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Former and current federal officials have also written to Interior, as well as other agencies, to either rethink or hone the planned closure of the Ombudsman's Office.

Florida-based human rights activist and former CNMI teacher Wendy Doromal's online petition to keep the ombudsman's office open is now only 24 signatures shy of its target of 2,000 signatures.

Doromal had said if the decision to close the Ombudsman's Office was actually made because OIA failed to plan for the

expiration of the ombudsman's term appointment, "that suggests that perhaps OIA, not the Ombudsman's Office, is the office in need of serious changes."

Rene Reyes, founding president of the Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd., said yesterday that MAHAL has also launched a signature drive to keep the Ombudsman's Office beyond fiscal year 2013. He said they have so far gathered more than 1,000 signatures.

"We are urging all concerned agencies to halt the closure of the Ombudsman's Office. We are also calling on guest workers to sign the petition," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Reyes said that Filipino workers alone, which comprise the bulk of foreign workers in the CNMI, have already endured the closure of the Philippine Consulate General on Saipan.

"We can't afford to lose another agency that deals with assisting victims of abuses including human trafficking, labor and immigration issues," Reyes added.

13 sets of questions

Miller said he supports the concerns raised on May 31 by U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee chair Ron Wyden (D-Oregon) regarding the decision of the Interior acting assistant secretary for insular areas to close the Ombudsman's Office in the CNMI.

Wyden also chairs the U.S. Senate committee that has oversight over insular areas such as the CNMI.

"Without a plan in place to ensure that labor and immigration complaints are handled properly, many foreign workers will be in jeopardy of suffering more abuses," Miller said.

Since its establishment in 1999, the Ombudsman's Office has handled numerous cases dealing with the long-standing pattern of mistreatment of alien workers, he said.

Miller also said that for years, the Ombudsman's Office has helped refer to proper CNMI and federal agencies thousands of foreign workers who were victims of labor abuses, human trafficking, sex trafficking, and illegal recruitment, among other things.

The office also helped victims of criminal acts such as rape, assault and battery, false imprisonment and torture, he added.

"As the former chair and ranking member of the Committee on Natural Resources with a great deal of experience overseeing labor and immigration issues in the CNMI, I share Senator Wyden's concerns regarding the potential closure of the Ombudsman's Office and I ask that answers be provided to the questions in his attached letter," Miller told Jewell.

Wyden, in his May 31 letter, asked Jewell 13 sets of questions.

For example, the senator asked Jewell how the Interior's OIA plans to spend the \$250,000 that President Barack Obama allocated for the operation of the Ombudsman's Office in 2014.

Wyden asked about OIA's plan to fill the vacant CNMI field representative position left by Jeff Schorr in August 2012, and whether there is a plan to have that person absorb duties

to assist aliens who are victims of immigration, labor, law enforcement and trafficking-in persons violations.

The senator gave the Interior secretary 30 days from May 31 to answer 13 questions and provide a detailed plan to ensure that the agency has a continuing capability to carry out the Ombudsman's Office's essential functions. No response has been received so far.

Wyden expressed "deep disappointment" with the Interior's decision to close the Ombudsman's Office in the CNMI "without a plan in place to ensure that the important work of the office is continued" and "without consulting congressional committees and guest workers who depend upon the office for advocacy and services."

Miller and Wyden's concerns about abuses and issues involving guest workers are documented once again in a newly released U.S. State Department's 2013 Trafficking in Persons Report that tags the CNMI as a "destination and transit location for men, women,

and children subjected to forced labor and sex trafficking."

The State Department said that during the reporting period, the Labor Ombudsman's Office reopened an investigation of a case of fraud in foreign labor contracting from 2009 "and identified 10 more human trafficking cases" in the CNMI.

Earlier, Interior's OIA said the Ombudsman's Office closure is a result of a "dramatic shift" in the office's work—"from working on serious labor and trafficking violations to assisting individual alien workers with more routine immigration and labor issues."

However, as former ombudsman James Benedetto pointed out, the Ombudsman's Office data itself shows that nearly three times as many human trafficking victims sought help from the office under federal control than those who came during the pre-federalization period, and roughly the same number of labor complaints has been received by the Ombudsman's Office as from 1999 to 2008.

Federal rule could upend states' shark fin bans



In this May 5, 2011 file photo, a bowl of shark fin soup is shown for a photograph at Far East Cafe in Chinatown in San Francisco.

By JUDY LIN
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SACRAMENTO, California (AP)—Several members of Congress representing coastal states are voicing concern about a proposed federal regulation that could pre-empt state bans on buying or selling shark fins.

Democratic Rep. Jared Huffman of California is being joined by representatives of New York, Florida and Guam in seeking changes to a proposal they say would take away a state tool to protect shark populations.

California, Hawaii, New York and several other states have passed regulations on the sale and trade of shark fins, which are used in a soup considered an Asian delicacy. California's ban on the sale, trade and possession of shark fins will go into effect Monday after a compromise allowed time for restaurants and businesses to use up their existing supplies.

A letter from the representatives and the delegate from Guam states that a proposed rule by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's fisheries management division, the National Marine Fisheries Services, would undermine those laws. California state lawmakers were also circulating an opposition letter.

"If we are to address the problem of shark-finning head on, we must allow state and territorial statutes to complement the federal regulations and further the U.S. leadership in global shark conservation," states the letter, which has not yet been sent to the fisheries service but was given in advance to The Associated Press.

In addition to Huffman, it is to be signed by Democratic Reps. Sam Farr of California and Grace Meng of New York, Florida Republican Rep. Vern Buchanan and Democratic Delegate Madeleine Bordallo of Guam. Their letter is dated July 8, which is when the public comment period on the proposed rule is scheduled to end.

A request for comment was left with a press officer for the National Marine Fisheries Services.

also used for fish and chips that is sustainably harvested.

However, California provides no such exemption.

Jennifer Fearing, California director for The Humane Society of the United States, said the state drafted its bill specifically to ban the sale of shark fins, no matter where the shark was caught.

California, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, New York, Oregon and Washington have passed laws banning the buying and selling of shark fins, according to the Humane Society. Similar bans are in effect in three U.S. Pacific territories—Guam, American Samoa and the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposal under consideration says state and territory shark fin laws are preempted if they are found to be inconsistent with federal fishery management plans or regulations.

Conservation and animal welfare groups have begun circulating petitions against the proposal, but representatives of the fishing industry have argued that federal preemption is necessary to maintain fishing of commercially viable shark species.

Congress passed and President Barack Obama signed the Shark Conservation Act of 2010 in an effort to strengthen federal laws against shark finning in U.S. waters and require that sharks be landed with their fins still attached. Since then, the fisheries service has been working to craft regulations to implement the act.

Conservation and animal advocacy groups said fishermen have been able to sidestep the rules by taking only the fins of sharks and dumping the carcasses back into the sea. Advocates say tens of millions of sharks are killed each year for the worldwide demand of shark fins and products.

Jill Hepp, director of shark conservation at The Pew Charitable Trusts, said states should have the right to go beyond federal rules in protecting shark populations.

"If this goes forward as they are proposing, this has the potential to undermine the states' shark fin trade ban and it would be a considerable setback for global shark conservation," Hepp said.

But John Whiteside, an attorney for Sustainable Fisheries Association, a Massachusetts nonprofit founded by four seafood processors, said the federal government should have the final say over regulations, especially fish caught in federal waters.

Not doing so would violate trade laws and run afoul of treaties the federal government has with governments around the world, he said. Commercial fishing groups were successful at getting exemptions in some states for certain species of sharks, such as the dogfish, a small shark

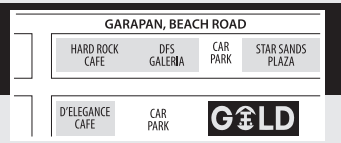
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PSS opposes proposed Faloma and Maleina Act

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Despite acknowledging the worthy intent of the bill, the Board of Education are opposed to the proposed Faloma and Maleina Parent Notification Act of 2013.

The measure, officially known as House Bill 18-32, seeks to include a new provision in the law which states that if a child is absent and the school has not been notified, a member of the office staff shall contact the parent or legal guardian no later than two hours after a child is recorded absent or as soon as possible, whichever comes first. If there is no answer at home, the emergency number or the parent or legal guardian's place of business or work will be called in an attempt to reach the parent or legal guardian.

According to Lucy Blanco-Maratita, chairperson of the BOE's legislative and inter-governmental affairs committee, and Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ed.D., they cannot support the bill in its current form.

"PSS is in agreement that there needs to be notification to parents regarding the attendance of their child, but, in this instance, this is beyond the scope of the Legislature to prescribe such specific administrative requirements on PSS," the

two officials said in their joint statement to the House Committee on Education chair Rep. Roman C. Benavente.

The two education officials say the bill falls far short of the mark to have an impact on the issue of parent notification.

Blanco-Maratita and Sablan cited Public Law 6-10, which created PSS as a nonprofit corporation within the Commonwealth government, headed by BOE which is empowered to formulate policy and exercise control over PSS and to establish rules, regulations, and policies for the operation of public schools.

"The board as the governing and policy-making body of PSS has implemented policies and administers general provisions on students, which include student attendance in school. In

addition to this, PSS has established and implemented standard operating procedures on reporting student attendance throughout the school day," they said.

The BOE and PSS recognize the bill in concept but have reservations regarding overlap with the proposed procedure.

"PSS has continually been focused on the issue of student safety and welfare. Immediately after the situation involving Faloma and Maleina, the commissioner of education held a principal and program managers' meeting where an explicit directive was given to all schools that they must respond to parents and inform them if a child is not in attendance at school," Blanco-Maratita said, adding that this directive includes disciplinary measures that are meted out

if a school is found to be non-compliant with the directive.

Over the years, she said, PSS has continued to take serious action on student welfare through the Safe and Orderly School Campus strategic priority. Some of these activities include educational awareness on student safety and campus orderliness by proclaiming Safe Schools' Week, conducting outreach programs with Homeland Security, with the Office of the U.S. District Attorney, the Department of Public Safety, the Neighborhood Watch, and providing trainings to students, teachers, and parents on safety programs.

Sisters Faloma, 10, and Maleina, 9, disappeared on May 25, 2011, on their way to school. They were last seen near a bus stop pavilion in As Teo. Their

mysterious disappearance triggered the most extensive search in CNMI history, but failed to

recover the missing children, who were both public school students.

Dynasty, former Saipan garment firms want to reverse FICA ruling

The owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino and former garment manufacturers on Saipan are appealing a federal court ruling on a FICA issue to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.

Tinian Dynasty owner Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd. and former Saipan garment manufacturers notified the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Wednesday about their appeal to the Ninth Circuit.

The appellants want the Ninth Circuit to reverse Chief Judge Ramona Manglona's dismissal of their two lawsuits filed on their behalf and on behalf of some of their former foreign workers.

In her ruling issued on March 19, 2013, Manglona ruled that Social Security and Medicare taxes—collectively known as Federal Insurance Contributions Act or FICA taxes—are payable on services of foreign workers employed in the CNMI from 2004 to 2008.

Manglona stated that the CNMI is part of the United States for FICA purposes and that the employee-FICA is an excise tax within the meaning of Section 606(b) of the Covenant.

Hong Kong Entertainment

and former garment manufacturers disagree.

These manufacturers are American Pacific Textile Inc., Grace International Inc., Handsome Textiles (Saipan) Corp., Hansae (Saipan) Inc., Marianas Garment Manufacturing Inc., Michigan Inc., Neo Fashion Inc., Sam Kwang Saipan Corp., Top Fashion Corp., Uno Moda Corp., and U.S. CNMI Development Corp.

Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investment Ltd., and Rifu Apparel Corp. are also filing a separate appeal on the same issue.

Hong Kong Entertainment and Rifu Apparel sued the U.S. government to recover allegedly wrongfully paid FICA taxes.

Twelve other defunct manufacturers, including the other group of appellants, and several Chinese nationals employed by the factories and their affiliates, filed separate but similar lawsuit against the U.S. government. They alleged that they erroneously withheld taxes from the wages of their then employees and paid them to the U.S. government when these employees should have been exempt from FICA taxes.

(Ferdie de la Torre)

Zheng pleads not guilty of attempted re-entry

Shou Wen Zheng, a Chinese national who was recently arrested for allegedly trying to enter the CNMI using a fake identity, has pleaded not guilty in federal court.

Zheng appeared with court-appointed counsel Vicente Salas at an arraignment/detention hearing on Wednesday.

Zheng, 44, waived the advisement of his constitutional rights and the reading of the charges against him. He pleaded not guilty of the charge.

The indictment charged Zheng with one count of attempted re-entry of a removed alien.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona set the jury trial for Sept. 3, 2013 at 9am.

Manglona granted the prosecution's motion for the defendant to remain in custody pending future proceedings.

Assistant U.S. attorney Ross Naughton appeared for the U.S.

government at the hearing.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation's fingerprint identification system led to Zheng's arrest last week after a fingerprint scan at the U.S. Customs and Border Protection revealed that the man wanting to enter Saipan airport using a passport under the name of "Wenqiang Jiang" was actually Zheng, who has a lengthy criminal history and had been deported from the United States twice. (Ferdie de la Torre)

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MARK RABAGO
Marine Wing Support Squadron 171 (MWSS-171) Commanding officer Lt. Col. Howard Eyth delivers his keynote speech during yesterday's 2013 Liberation Day program at the Civic Center grounds. Looking on are Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider.



MARK RABAGO
Gov. Eloy S. Inos reiterated the "gift of freedom" given by the country's armed forces in his welcome speech in yesterday's 2013 Liberation Day program



REINA S. PEREZ
The 2013 Guam Liberation Queen Ealani Alvarez Lobaton joins the 68th Liberation Day Parade Thursday morning, July 4.



REINA S. PEREZ
Gov. Eloy S. Inos, Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider, Saipan Mayor Donald G. Flores and Grand Marshall David Kapileo Peter watch the 68th Liberation Day Parade Thursday morning, July 4.



REINA S. PEREZ
Saipan's Awaodori Team entertains the crowd during the 68th Liberation Day Parade Thursday morning, July 4.



REINA S. PEREZ
The Falun Dafa dragons perform during the 68th Liberation Day Parade Thursday morning, July 4.



REINA S. PEREZ
The Seventh Day Adventist Pathfinders Club's float with the theme "Go Green for God" wins first place in the float competition.



REINA S. PEREZ
The Peleliu Athletes Club of Saipan's float wins second place in the float competition.



REINA S. PEREZ
The Lion's Club's float wins third place in the float competition.



REINA S. PEREZ
The Paper Doll's float wins fourth place in the float competition.

OPA: Revise DPL's Mañagaha landing fee collection, accountability

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Public Auditor has called for a revision of the procedures for the Mañagaha landing fee collection and accountability—a recommendation that the Department of Public Lands has heeded.

OPA said that revising the procedures would ensure proper assessment of fees and appropriate reporting of collections.

“We recommend DPL management monitor and perform regular site visits to Mañagaha Island. Further, administrative fees paid from landing fee collections should be supported by an agreement that is maintained on file,” Public Auditor Michael Pai said in a report on DPL's Mañagaha landing fees trust account.

DPL agreed with OPA's findings and said it will take corrective action to address the recommendations.

Specifically, DPL said it will ensure that its rangers account for resident and nonresident passengers from all vessels arriving on Mañagaha Island, and meet with Tasi Tours to mutually agree and document the monthly administrative fee related to the accounting of the Mañagaha landing and user fees.

Tasi Tours is DPL's exclusive concessionaire for Mañagaha Island, a popular island resort in the CNMI.

OPA reviewed DPL's trust account and collection of Mañagaha landing fees from Dec. 1, 2012, through Dec. 31, 2012, pursuant to an OPA-DPL agreement.

The Mañagaha landing fee is \$5 per tourist.

OPA said DPL rangers did not perform a head a count of passengers arriving on Tasi Tours vessels. It said the number of Tasi Tours passengers, both residents and nonresidents, is provided to DPL rangers at the end of the day by a Tasi Tours representative.

“There is no verification by DPL rangers that the information provided by Tasi is accurate,” OPA said in its report.

OPA also said that postdated cash receipts are issued to passengers arriving after the days' sales are closed and are included in the sales for the next business day.

“We recommend all passengers arriving at Mañagaha Island be accounted for and physically verified by DPL rangers. In addition, we recommend cash receipts be dated at the time cash is received from passengers,” OPA said.

OPA also examined cash receipts and the Mañagaha trust account for the month of December 2012.

“The December 2012 billing to Tasi was \$100 less than the total landing fees due. We were advised that Tasi is allowed to deduct \$100 a month as an administrative fee related to the accounting of the Mañagaha landing and user fees. A written agreement between Tasi and

DPL authorizing the monthly deduction was not available,” OPA said.

It recommends deductions from total collections be supported by a written agreement that is maintained on file.

Besides these, OPA said it found no significant issues that would require OPA to expand

its testing.

Meantime, a proposal currently pending in the House of Representatives proposes a \$5 departure fee for Mañagaha for

nonresident visitors.

Saipan Mayor Donald Flores is opposing this measure, House Bill 18-14, saying this will “make it expensive for any non-

resident to enjoy a relaxing visit to the island. With a current fee of \$5 for landing and another fee of \$5 for departing the island as proposed, the cost will be a bit too high for a day's visit to Managaha, assuming other expenses are factored in.”

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By **JOHN DELROSARIO**
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.



Pension cut: Source of authority?

There's no shortage of frustration and sense of helplessness among retirees upon hearing of plans by the administration to cut 25 percent of pension paychecks at some point in the near term.

Affected families (some 3,000) must have burned the midnight oil with calculators trying to figure out what the net income would be when the cut hits family purses.

Amusing, though, the administration hiding behind the Fund pushing for approval of the 25 percent pension cut. But didn't the same administration say recently, "Cuts isn't even an option?" Obviously, the seesaw shift pushes the mercury upwards, unabated in most discussions everywhere.

Realistically, what is the source of constitutional authority (implied or expressed) that allows this breach of contractual obligation on the part of the administration? Did the court decide with complicity that contractual breach is perfectly permissible?

I could understand the gradual creation of a monstrosity beaten to bankruptcy by woefully generous politicians who've long since suffered from intellectual atrophy. This is the bunch that has no inkling of the "unintended consequences" of ill-conceived policy matters when they fail due diligence. Anyway, despite the aura of sophisticated legal theatrics there's collective failure once more to resolve the bankruptcy of the Fund.

The pension cut, in my view, is an overreach of authority. The administration walked away scot-free once more. It refuses to meet its obligations in grand fashion. Yet it seeks 100 positions for political purposes. Its position confirms its championing ensuring the Fund is crowned the halo of "bankruptcy." It's a quiet agenda since years ago. It finally moved in for the kill. It now clearly bears the fruit of its insidious determination to send retirees to a deeper hole.

The 25-percent cut comes while Obamacare forces private health insurance that would double up soon? A sizable cut when cost of an already prohibitive cost of utilities is slated to increase by September? Why a decrease in pension when the cost of basically everything increases while family income freezes, decreases or simply zero-out? How about cutting the cost of living here by 50 percent before you send us to your newly established hellhole?

Is the Legislature anywhere in sight? Anybody home? Is this the final display of "better times" and "experienced" leadership? This mindless political agenda prominently presents questions about leadership: Isn't it about the interest of others (governance) you represent with promises to improve their lot on the equal playing field of economic prosperity? Feels more like we're in the gulag of leadership failure!

Sorry, I'd rather stay on the side of what's right in defense of retirees' hard-earned rights than pretend it's perfectly fine sending them deeper into a bottomless hole. Call your legislators and demand an answer!

Conundrum: The new cultural fad?

A "conundrum" is a complex issue that's even troubling for ex-
See PENSION on Next Page



The train

My generation created folk heroes out of rail riders from Dallas-Fort Worth and the stockyards of Chicago. Images of the Dust Bowl and freight trains, in sketches, photos, and lyrics, abound in print and broadcast art. This must be why we chose to ride the train in a diagonal trip across the Sino landscape.

It is not just because I am a cheapskate by avocation; travel cost in China is cheaper to what it cost me in the United States. A comparable Boston-Dallas rail ticket one-way costs \$320 at the bottom economy end. My Chengdu ticket is \$120, on the high end. AMTRAK seats and beds are larger. I trekked five years ago on a 30-day pass from Houston to LA, to SF and Portland, on to Chicago, segued into Kansas, onward to Boston, down to New York, then back to Houston. It was comfortable on a regular coach seat.

This weekend, I had the lower berth in the 4-soft bed section. We got an electrical outlet for my laptop when my roommates who had at least two cell phones each did not need to recharge. Comparing U.S. and China rails, however, is like setting apples next to lychee.

Traveling by rail in the U.S., to us, was a piece of cake, as Tokyo's Shinkansen was very expensive heading either toward Osaka or Sapporo. Getting a rail ticket in China is a federal effort, more so because I chose to travel at the same time university graduates were heading home. I inveigle one of my weekend student's mama to call someone who knew somebody related to a personnel at the ticket office. Then there was the challenge of getting from the school to the train station, and from the front of the station to the platform before the mad rush to the berths. NYC's Grand Central station is a walk in the park compared to what it took to get to my train bed!

But that's neither here nor there.

Trains afford a ground level view of the geography and up-close-and-personal elbow rubbing with locals.

It got dark after we passed the aerated fishponds of Panjin, reminiscent of the shrimp outgrow ponds of Hawaii and the milkfish ponds of my childhood in northern Luzon. We got tired watching cities looking like lit stage for Hollywood or Broadway, with colorful neon lights shaping downtown buildings. After three other guys joined the room, businessmen eager to call it a week after too much bai jiu under their belt, we turned off the lights.

The mist of day met us at 4am when it started to get light in the countryside of Hebei. An ocular survey of the terrain made it easy to speculate on the state of the economy and the communal health of the populace.

The farms already had the corn knee high on the Fourth of July even as some acreage still sported the stalks from the spring rice. Grape vines verdant, orange and peach orchards fruiting, the sunflowers all faced the early eastern light like uniformed children in an orchestrated aerobic at the schoolyard. The green beans hung on the vine, and the potatoes were well enough to survive a drought. Some farm hands looked distinguished and schooled, others scraggly in perpetual toil.

Shijiazhuang of the melamine scandal of 2008 is a well-established

By **JAIME VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara is an ordained minister of the United Methodist Church and was pastor of Saipan Immanuel UMC at the second millenium's turn. He now writes from China.



lished urban center for Hebei and provides logistical support for Beijing; it is home to the military garrison responsible for defending the capital from threat.

But it was the surrounding area that revealed the full production of construction materials. Iron ore smelters were belching soot while an oil refinery was burning extra gas in the air as power lines crisscrossed the countryside. Power plants with towers looking like nuclear reactors, along with coal-fired boilers, were immense. Two cement factories had twined interconnected tubes rising 10 stories high. Cranes sat atop high-rise apartments in selected cities; earthmovers and excavated lots dotted settled areas. Numerous constructions along the highway snarled traffic and by the rails are projects that have the markings of haste.

It was a 7-year-old girl in the next room who I thought I heard say, "Xi Jinping said, ..." that made me perk up, and when I went over to say, "Hello, how are you?" I saw a learner's face lit up. That's when I realized I could not escape the call of language pedagogy. Besides, it dawned on me that I was down this stretch of rail before. She got two friends to join her.

An hour and half later, as we crossed the Huang He (Yellow River) we were singing "We speak English, we are cool, we sing, we sit on a stool," with an Obama thumbs up gesture, to *Brahms' Lullaby*. Then, for their history lesson (and mine), we name the major Chinese dynasties to *Frère Jacques*:

Xia, Shang, Zhou, Qin,
Han and Han, Xin
Wei, Shu, Wu
Sui, Tang, Sung
Yuan, Ming, Qing, Republic
Guo Min Tang, Gong Chang Dang
Mao Ze Dong
Zhongguo Ren.

The mist did not lift. It stayed as a low-lying smog across the horizon, though not dark enough to hide the trash piled in some backyard's ponds while other communities were equipped with solar panels on the roof, paper lanterns on the door, in neatly organized and pleasant looking neighborhoods. None was, however, spared the smog.

By the time we hit the mountain tunnels past Zhengzhou in Henan, the children had "I see with my eyes, hear with my ears, smell with my nose, eat with my mouth, and touch with my fingers" down pat. When we hit sundown, the mothers gratefully said their "Xie xie"; we were in Xi'an, Shaanxi of the terracotta warriors. By then, my English singers had already curtsied their goodbye.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

An apparatus for treating air

If Saipan's toasty climate isn't hot enough for you, consider that some of the U.S. mainland is on full broil; Palm Springs hit 122 degrees a few days ago, Las Vegas hit 117, and Phoenix hit 119.

Although Magellan pried open much of the Pacific, and John Wayne secured the Wild West, it was Willis Carrier who tamed their climates.

Carrier is an unsung hero of civilization, and he certainly deserves mention right up there with Edison, Ford, and the Wright Brothers.

Carrier, you see, is the guy who invented air conditioning. His patent for an "Apparatus for Treating Air" was issued on Jan. 2, 1906.

The original use was for industrial applications. It wasn't until 1924 that it was regarded as a creature comfort for people.

Well, things moved fast after that. What would have been outlandish science fiction just a few generations ago is normal life today: Many people live in air conditioned houses, drive air conditioned cars to work, work in air conditioned offices, and at the end of the day they get back in their air conditioned cars and go back to their air conditioned homes, perhaps making a stop at an air conditioned restaurant or an air conditioned store along the way.

I'll bet that many people spend less than 15 minutes a day exposed to the ambient atmosphere.

So as hot as Las Vegas and Phoenix get, they've got no shortage of residents. The Las Vegas area has about 2 million residents. The Phoenix region has over 4 million. Those are just two data points on the modern trend of Americans moving to the "sun belt."

So Mr. Carrier's invention is more profound than it looked at first glance, since it has driven entire patterns of migration.

Heroes are all around us

Most of us wake up in the morning, adjust our eyes to the light, wash off the residue of slumber and steady ourselves for the day's work. Sometimes it's a happy prospect, sometimes drudgery, but for the vast majority it's neither joy nor sorrow. It's just life.

And then you have those special ones, people who, for different reasons but common goals, rush into the day with adrenaline, courage and the knowledge that each step might be taking them toward their last. They are heroes, though they'd reject that title. And the true hero is precisely the one who doesn't recognize his own face in the mirror but only appreciates the courage in those around him.

They are not defined by their separate faiths, although there is usually something in them that recognizes a higher power. Atheists can be courageous, and you could even say that they have the most to lose in risking themselves because on the other side of life is ... nothing.

But heroes are humble, and you need to be humble to believe in God because that belief removes you from the center of the universe and helps you find your place in the hierarchy of humanity. To those who finger rosaries, sit shiva, bow toward Mecca or search for the inner light, heroism comes from reaching outward, and then upward.

All of this is to say that in a world where most of us sit at desks, drive cars or tap on keyboards to earn our daily bread, it is important to remember the ones who live and die for others. For us, in fact, it is particularly important to do so this week, when we commemorate both the impossibly heroic founding of our nation and, 90 years later, the desperate struggle to save it from being destroyed.

Philadelphians live shoulder to shoulder with the memories of heroes. Each stone bears the imprint of some important thing, some

Saipan needs no further evidence of how this stuff can bounce. The ubiquitous concrete, sweat-box houses, which are notoriously thirsty for aircon, could only have been built atop foundations of cheap electricity. Well, the cheap juice is gone. But the heat isn't. People have been liberated from the environment but found themselves chained to the electric bill.

True, you could start from a clean sheet and build a less aircon-intensive house. I know a few people who have done that on Saipan, but that was more for lifestyle concerns than utility savings. For most people, it's not a reasonable option, since even if you have the money to spend on such an idea, it's money being irrecoverably sunk into a dysfunctional economy.

Many lousy economies box themselves into that trap, where it doesn't pay for people to invest in making improvements. So, year by year, things just get a little shabbier, a little thinner, and a little less efficient.

On the more functional and dynamic side of things, the economic powerhouses of Singapore and Hong Kong are viable partly because air conditioning in their hot climates has made high-density living a comfortable and viable proposition.

Overall, as Asia grows increasingly urban, it's logical to expect that air conditioned apartments will become a fact of life for more and more people. This is just one slice of the pie that points to ever-greater Asian demand for energy in the future. To my mind, that's probably one of the world's surest bets, at least in the long term, since anything can happen in the short term.

But we don't always have to be tied to big electric bills. When I was an analyst for a wind energy producer I paid attention to my electric bills. I lived in a small mountain town, in a small house,

momentous happening that shaped us into the nation we've become. It's the whispering echo of liberty, captured forever on parchment and then given to the colonies and the greater world with the flourish of a pen. Heroes hung their hats here during that sweltering July.

It's the sacrifice in the frozen fields of Valley Forge, where the struggle to survive hunger and fear and grasp the better angels of the human soul was as heroic as any battle.

It is also, for Philadelphians and Pennsylvanians alike, the consecrated ground at Gettysburg, where Americans—not colonists—faced down other Americans who'd lost the memory of Valley Forge and Lexington and Saratoga and thought they could recreate as great a nation as the one they'd been bequeathed by Jefferson, Madison and the rest.

This is the continuing chain of heroism that forms a civic spine for a country of challengers and dreamers. It's no wonder that we give birth to men who write things like "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with inalienable rights" or "We the People, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice" or "We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain—that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom—and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

We. We. We. As John Donne wrote, no man is an island, and even though America is based in part upon a passion for individual freedom and liberty, we also recognize that we are only as strong as our weakest link. And that is the essence of our heroism, or at least the heroism of those citizens who greet the day and the week and the following years with dedication to their brothers and sisters.

I also started "lovin'" the legal tango and theatrics in court. The venue brings some of the political luminaries listening to proposals and counter-proposals flying around the room. They smile when they hear something they like, frown when the offer is anomalous or discordant.

But most egregious and appalling of all is the time, money, and energy spent discussing the issue that simply fails to fix the insolvency or bankruptcy of the Fund. It's an issue parading below their nose for the last 36 years and they kept fencing it off with a 10-foot pole like some filthy leper.

Call it a conundrum that confirms one thing: We've been living in the same filthy swamp of impotence and incompetence all these years and "we're suspiciously lovin' it" too!

Confusing abortion v. women's health

The debate rages on about abortion sandwiched between authorizing a woman's right to kill her baby (even in the last trimester) and as defined by liberal women as a matter of "health."

Obviously, they've stayed as far away from any outright admission of murder of the innocent. But they've pushed their confused

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com.
His column runs every Friday.



and my highest electric bill was under \$7 for the month, which was probably for about 70 kilowatt hours (I don't remember exactly). I had a small, dorm-style refrigerator, no television, and no aircon, so the only juice I used was mostly for lights, the washer and dryer, and the vacuum cleaner. I wasn't trying to be cheap or to prove anything. I just didn't need much juice. That's a pretty rare case, though, and the climate wasn't humid, so I doubt I'll be able to duplicate those times again.

In fact, the default setting for modern life has become the electric cocoon, with a conditioned climate, a big screen TV, and lots of computerized connectivity. The modern work place is just another version of that. And, heck, even cars have become electric cocoons with TV screens in them, as drivers careen into each other while they're text messaging.

The whole world could become a smoking cauldron of melted lava, but nobody would notice until there was a Twitter post about it.

So as always, the trick in life is to enjoy the good side of things while avoiding the bad. As for me, I do like Mr. Carrier's invention. However, I'll leave the electric cocoon for others. My beach chair suits me just fine, and it doesn't have to be plugged in.

By CHRISTINE M. FLOWERS

Philadelphia Daily News

Christine M. Flowers is a lawyer and columnist for the Philadelphia Daily News. Readers may send her email at cflowers1961@gmail.com.



This heroism is not a thing of the past, or even the recent past. Statues commemorate the figures of the revolution and other wars. We bow our heads at Arlington, at Normandy, before the sleek black marble of the Vietnam memorial in Washington and the somber memorials to the first responders of 9/11.

But each day brings new heroes, and new sorrow. Even as we remember the sacrifice of the soldiers at Valley Forge and Gettysburg this week, we are forced to say prayers for 19 other heroes whose battlefield out west was engulfed in wildfire and who fought not to forge a nation or to preserve it, but to protect her citizens from the banal dangers of peacetime.

Nineteen young men called the "Granite Mountain Hotshots" lost their lives battling raging infernos in Arizona. They were the Navy Seals of firefighters, elite of their chosen profession and, with one exception, their entire unit was killed trying to stop the flames.

These are the type of people who are still among us, generations on. For it is true, as Dylan Thomas once wrote, "And death shall have no dominion."

definition of abortion and health as being synonymous.

Jonah Goldberg, editor-at-large of the *National Review Online* wrote and he followed to the linked story but there was nothing about a spike in cervical or breast cancer rates. "Nothing about occupational safety for female workers and no mention of female life expectancy either. Instead, the story was about how the ACLU says anti-abortion laws are on the rise across the country."

A liberal female columnist for the international edition of the *New York Times* writes of the "allegedly horrific threat to women's health" posed by restrictive abortion laws in places like Africa, Asia, and Latin America. However, she makes no mention of the estimated 160 million women "missing" in Asia alone who were killed in gender-selective abortions.

"The biggest killer of women is heart disease, followed by cancer, then stroke. I couldn't find 'lack of a timely abortion' on the CDC list. "Conservatives want to leave it to women to make their own choices. Many conservatives would also like to see women live longer so they could have the chance to make those decisions, rather than be snuffed out in utero." The two words aren't synonymous!

PENSION

From Page 10

perts. In our case, though, it's a matter of knowing the issue all along but deciding to ignore it. Thus it's more a case of negligence blurred by the lack of percipience or ability to see and fully understand the magnitude of issues when we opt to rest comfortably on the pillows of *mañana*.

This isn't asserting an unjustified indictment against public officials. Everybody knows it is the "modus operandi" therefore I am absolved for "telling it like it is."

Take the issue of the now bankrupt Retirement Fund. The NMI owes it some \$371 million. Its total unfunded liability is about \$779 million. This is how much is needed to pay pension obligation through to completion.

I've kept my ears to the ground to see if a more positive heavy decibel erupts from downstairs. None! But "I'm lovin' it," you know, the tug-o-war on what's left of the Fund's carcass that is now in federal court.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds near 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 10 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°	▲88° ▼77°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Mostly Sunny	▲89 ▼81
Palau	Showers	▲86 ▼76
Yap	Showers	▲91 ▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	▲86 ▼79
Pohnpei	Sunny	▲87 ▼77
Kosrae	Sunny	▲87 ▼77
Majuro	Showers	▲85 ▼80

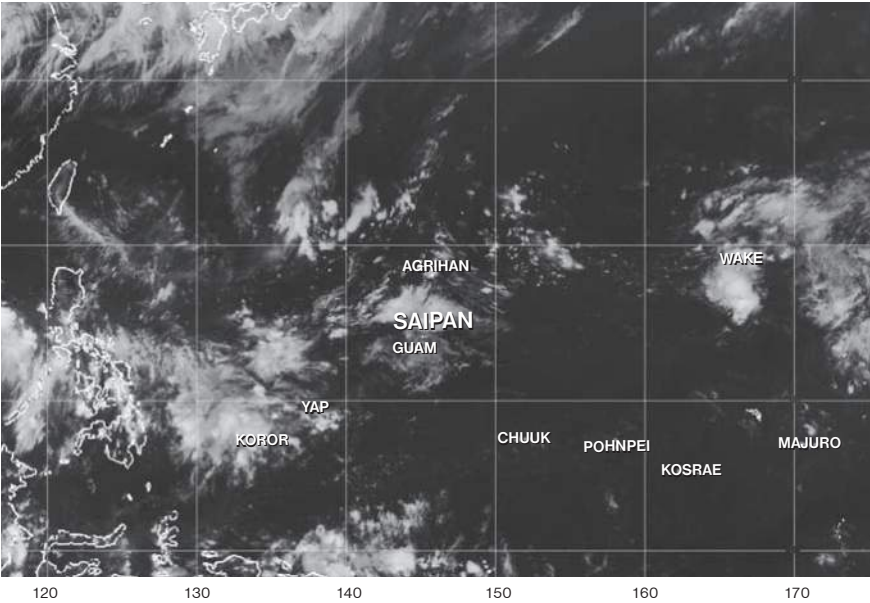
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲64 ▼51
Beijing	Sunny	▲92 ▼70
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲89 ▼82
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲84 ▼71
London	Mostly Sunny	▲75 ▼54
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲77 ▼65
Manila	Thundershowers	▲91 ▼79
Melbourne	Sunny	▲58 ▼44
Miami	Thundershowers	▲86 ▼79
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲89 ▼73
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲88 ▼78
Paris	Cloudy	▲76 ▼61
Pusan	Thundershowers	▲80 ▼74
Rome	Sunny	▲87 ▼67
Salem	Sunny	▲82 ▼52
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲76 ▼60
Seoul	Thunderstorms	▲78 ▼71
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲83 ▼76
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲90 ▼74

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
12:24 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
5:34 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:14 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
8:24 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, THURSDAY, JULY 4, 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Low-level convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms west of Yap and over Koror between 13N and 5N from 130E to 137E. Scattered showers associated with trade-wind convergence are occurring well south of the Marianas near the equator south of a line from 1N138E to 3N145E. A trade-wind disturbance is producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the CNMI between 17N and 14N from 142E to 146E and the far Northern Marianas between 19N and 17N from 145E to 147E. An upper-level low centered northwest of Wake Island at 21N165E is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Wake Island within 150 miles of a line from 16N165E to 23N169E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms associated with a trade-wind disturbance northeast of the Marshall Islands are located between 16N and 11N from 171E to 176E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	5:51 AM	6:52 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Sunday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Monday	5:52 AM	6:52 PM
Tuesday	5:53 AM	6:52 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	3:13 AM	4:22 PM
Saturday	4:00 AM	5:10 PM
Sunday	4:48 AM	5:57 PM
Monday	5:37 AM	6:42 PM
Tuesday	6:26 AM	7:26 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

■ **CAMPUS BULLETIN**
Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

the name of contact person, and a phone number.

- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan

To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 23, 2013											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN					
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7			UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7		
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5			UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	Daily		
UA5068	8:35am	9:25am	Daily			UA5073	10:00am	10:50am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7		
UA5074	11:20am	12:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7			UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7		
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily			UA5077	5:35pm	6:25pm	Daily		
UA5078	6:55pm	7:45pm	Daily			UA5079	8:20pm	9:10pm	Daily		
UA5072	9:45pm	10:35pm	Daily			ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN					
						UA5062	3:45am	4:20am	1, 3, 5		
						UA5038	11:15am	11:50am	6		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily			DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily		
DL297	4:35pm	7:25pm	Daily			DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	1, 4, 5, 7			OZ607	9:05pm	1:55am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1			OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily		
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7		
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily			OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	1, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
MU764	4:10am	8:00am	1, 5			MU763	7:55pm	3:10am+1	4, 7		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-KHABAROVSK (KHV)						KHABAROVSK (KHV)-SAIPAN					
SYL9950	6:40pm	1:30am+1	7			SYL9949	12:45pm	5:20pm	7		
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)						VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN					
XF1734	4:15pm	10:30pm	4 Every other week eff May 16			XF1733	11:20am	3:25pm	4 Every other week eff May 16		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN			PR110/UA5072	7:55am	6:25pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM		
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			DL172/288	8:00am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT		
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	6 via GUM			UA190/5077	10:55am	6:25pm	3, 6 via GUM		
UA5062/191	4:50am	9:55am	3 via GUM			UA190/5079	10:55am	9:10pm	3, 6 via GUM		
DL287/173	6:05am	10:05pm	Daily via NRT			OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5068/PR111	8:35am	4:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
US5074/PR111	11:20am	4:35pm	1, 5, 7 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM			OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/5071	11:35pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM		
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN								
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN					
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM			OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
OZ604/745	3:30pm	10:40pm	Daily via ICN			UA180/5071	10:45pm	8:05am+1	1, 5 via GUM		
						UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:05am+1	3, 6 GUM		
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air; SYL: Yakutia Air.											
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)											

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE							
Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				

Flores wants share of free trade zone license fees

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Citing the municipality's lack of funds to repair and maintain its heavy equipment, Saipan Mayor Donald Flores is once again asking lawmakers for additional funding, this time targeting a share of the proposed free trade zone licenses.

In his letter to House Commerce Committee chair Rep. Edmund Villagomez, Flores also supported the inclusion of the Northern Islands in the proposed creation of free trade zones, as envisioned in House Bill 18-15.

"We support the intent of the bill. Including the islands north of Saipan in the free trade zone assures that any interested developer has another option than the three populated islands in the CNMI, an option that we think is to our advantage. The only drawback about any development in the islands north of Saipan is the total lack of infrastructure. But the development has to start somewhere, and the free trade zone may be the vehicle that is needed to make it happen,"



Flores

said the mayor.

Although he professes not to know how free trade zones might impact an area, Flores believes that there will be some.

"We believe the impact will not be restricted to the areas within the free trade zone, as transportation, retail stores, restaurants, and housing must support free trade zone workforce and activities," he said.

Given this presumption, the mayor wants the Legislature to look into ways to fund the cost of maintaining, repairing, and improving roads and cleanup of public areas, among others.

"By this, we mean that the

Legislature must consider amending the Free Trade Zone Act by adding a new provision to authorize the authority to set aside a certain percentage of license fees, rental payments collected to be used by the Office of the Mayor where the collection is received," he said.

Flores added that the mayor must be authorized to use the funds to pay for costs to improve, repair, and maintain roads, keep villages clean and safe, and to pay for the acquisition and repair of heavy equipment.

The municipality owns only four heavy equipment, all of

which are dilapidated and on the verge of collapse. Of the four, only two are functional while other two need repair and replacement.

This fiscal year, the mayor's office is budgeted for \$1.165 million, the bulk of which goes to pay the wages of 39 employees.

Eucon to hold Family Fun Day tomorrow

Eucon International School will have its Family Fun Day tomorrow at the American Memorial Park beginning at 10am.

According to Sean Sartler, Eucon acting dean of Academic Affairs, "This is an opportunity to be with the family of God outside of school, work, and church, to know one another, have fellowship, and real con-

nections with the Eucon family and the community."

Eucon has been conducting its Family Fun Day the past several years and it is designed for families to gain fellowship and strengthen relationships within and outside the family by doing fun things together.

Family Fun Day involves traditional American fun games

that everyone from children to young adults can enjoy.

During the event Eucon also prepares the usual American food such as hamburgers and hotdogs. Eucon president Dr. Christian Wei, vice president Dr. Wayne Johnson, and other faculty are expected to attend the event. (Saipan Tribune)

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U.S. Navy Public Notice
Availability of Final
Environmental Assessment
and Finding of No Significant Impact

The United States Department of the Navy (Navy), in cooperation with the U.S. Air Force and Federal Aviation Administration, completed the Mariana Islands Range Complex (MIRC) Airspace Final Environmental Assessment/Overseas Environmental Assessment (EA/OEA) for proposed modifications to military training airspace and sea space in the MIRC.

PROPOSED ACTION:
The Proposed Action is to enhance training and safety requirements to implement levels of training analyzed in the MIRC Final Environmental Impact Statement/Overseas Environmental Impact Statement (EIS/OEIS) to maintain, train and equip combat-ready military forces. The Proposed Action consists of modification to existing training airspace and sea space within the MIRC; however, the type of training associated with the Proposed Action would not differ from the July 2010 Record of Decision for the MIRC EIS/OEIS.

Under the preferred alternative, the Navy would:

- Extend the Restricted Area (R-7201) at Farallon de Medinilla (FDM) from 3 nautical miles (nm) to 12 nm and designate the new Restricted Area as R-7201A
- Create new Warning Areas, designated as W-11, W-12, and W-13, which would replace existing Air Traffic Control Assigned Airspace 1, 2, and 3
- Expand the planned 10 nm surface Danger Zone around FDM to 12 nm (congruent with proposed R-7201A)

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to maximize public awareness of hazardous military training activities and to optimize safety and training efficiency. The Proposed Action is needed to support training activities that involve the use of advanced weapons systems. Implementation of the preferred alternative would meet the Navy's purpose and need by ensuring activities are conducted safely in controlled areas.

PUBLIC OUTREACH:
The Navy held open house information sessions for the Draft EA/OEA on Jan. 15, 2013, in Mangilao, Guam, and Jan. 17, 2013, in Susupe, Saipan. Public and agency comments received during a 45-day public review period were considered in the development of the Final EA/OEA.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT OR HARM:
The environmental analysis documented in the Final EA/OEA indicates there would be no significant impact or harm to the environment from proposed modifications to airspace and sea space. As a result, further environmental analysis does not need to be prepared before this action is implemented.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
Visit the project website: www.MIRCAirspaceEA.com or contact:
Naval Facilities Engineering Command Pacific
Attention: MIRC Airspace EA/OEA Project Manager
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Hawaii comic duo to perform tonight at Fiesta

Marianas Pacific Distributors, Inc. is bringing two of Hawaii's biggest names in comedy for a one-day show tonight at the Hibiscus Hall of the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

Mel Cabang, Hawaii's grandfather of comedy, and Kaleo Pilanca, a self-styled stand-up comedian, will tag-team to tickle everyone's funnybone in "Da Big Bang Comedy Show Blowout Saipan!"

According to the website



Cabang



Pilanca

Funny Business, Cabang was born on the big island of Hawaii and graduated high school in 1960. He later received a bachelor's degree in music and a minor in psychology.

Cabang wanted to teach music but ended up being a musician in his own rock band and later evolved into the total entertainer—a comedian.

Pilanca, according to the Honolulu Advertiser, was born and raised in Waiahole

Valley, Hawaii.

A 1991 graduate of Kamehameha Schools, Pilanca, whose real name is Philemon Kaleokalani Pilana, plays off his Hawaiian, Portuguese, and Filipino heritage to make people laugh.

"Da Big Bang Comedy Show Blowout Saipan!" is a Shimbros Production and is sponsored by MarPac, Docomo Pacific, IP&E, Tan Siu Lin Foundation, and Fiesta

Resort & Spa.

Doors open at 6pm and the show starts at 7:45pm. Tickets can be purchased at Docomo Pacific, all Shell gas stations, MarPac, and Gold's Gym.

"Da Big Bang Comedy Show Blowout Saipan!" comes on the heels of MarPac flying into Saipan island reggae legend Baba B and Canadian comic Ron Josol. The three events are part of the MarPac's 40th anniversary celebration of doing business on Saipan. **(Mark Rabago)**

Saipan's Latte Vibes a featured act in 'Guam Live!' concert

Latte Vibes, one of the most sought after live performing groups on Saipan, is set to perform at the "Guam Live!" concert—a historic event bringing together several bands from the U.S. mainland and Guam for the island's biggest music showcase.

"Guam Live!" will feature over 10 hours of live music and entertainment and the island's best local food.

"They [Latte Vibes] are the only band from Saipan that is set to perform at this event and the boys are proud to represent the 670," said Latte Vibes manager Rob Travilla.

Latte Vibes is a reggae band that was formed on December 2008 when a group of friends put their musical talents together and recruited some new faces to form what is now one



Latte Vibes is one of the most sought after live performing groups on Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

of the most popular and loved bands on Saipan. It is composed of Vince Camacho (vocals), Jose "Ze" Tudela (drums), Delbert "Boom" Camacho (bass), Perry Borja (lead guitar), Noki Torres (keyboards), and Dean Borja (lead vocals/guitar).

The group has gigs in many popular local bars on Saipan and has performed at many local events such as the Flame Tree Arts Festival in 2009 and 2011; the Red Cross' Club 200 event in October 2011; the opening act for United Nesia Fest: Coming Home Tour featuring Island Trybe on Saipan in October 2011; as the opening act for Common Kings on Saipan in June 2012; and the Northern Marianas College Charter Day this year.

Guam Live! is touted as the first of what is planned to become an

annual local music and entertainment festival. It is organized by Tropical Productions Inc.

This year, the event will feature bands like San Francisco's Shawn Megofna Band, San Diego's Through the Roots, Los Angeles' Mighty Mellow Masters, Saipan's Latte Vibes, Guam's Dollhouse The TJ Hubert Experience, and more.

This concert will be on Saturday, July 13, 2013, at the Guam Greyhound Park. Doors will open at 11am. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$25 at 76 Circle K, MWR, Andersen ITT, and online at tpiguam.com. Tickets purchased on the day of the show will be \$35.

For more information on Guam Live!, visit www.tpiguam.com or www.facebook.com/tpiguamlive. For booking and more information on Latte Vibes, visit www.facebook.com/latte670. **(PR)**



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The Power to Surprise

Andal and Dabu are Hystar of the Year awardees



MARK RABAGO

Hyatt Regency Saipan teppanyaki chef Ronnel Andal, second right, won the 2012 Hystar of the Year award for 2012 Wednesday during the Garapan landmark's "Celebrate our People" event. Flanking Andal are executive chef Gabriel Colombo, right, and human resources director Josephine Mesta. At left is Hyatt general manager Nick Nishikawa.

Two food and beverage staff of Hyatt Regency Saipan were hailed Hystar of the Year winners during the Garapan landmark's "Celebrating Our People" 2012 employee appreciation dinner Wednesday night.

Teppanyaki chef Ronnel Andal and wait staff Josephine Dabu earned the highest honors for last year after winning the operations support and guest services Hystars of the Year plums, respectively. Each took home \$1,000.

The 38-year-old Andal was working at the Hyatt kitchen when his name was called as the winner. After a couple of minutes he appeared in full chef regalia and accepted his award.

He said he was very surprised to win because the competition is always very stiff.

Andal started as a waiter at Hyatt in 2006 before enrolling in the NMI Trades Institute in 2010. A year later Hyatt executive chef Gabriel Colombo, with recommendation from human resources director Josephine Mesta, recruited him to as a commissary chef.

The native of Quezon City, Philippines said he will use the money he won to take a well-deserved vacation in the Philippines.

Colombo said he's very proud of Andal winning the Hystar of the Year plum. He said there couldn't be a more deserving person to win the award, adding that Andal is "very enthusiastic, very focused, very proactive,

and is good with the guests that they practically love him."

Dabu was not present to receive her award since she is on vacation. Aside from Andal and Dabu other winners of Hyatt's yearly employee awards are Leader of the Year awardee Anthea Baltazar (Rooms), Trainer of the Year Rosalie Delos Santos (Food and Beverage), and Hafa Adai Spirit winners Ryan Litulumar (Food and Beverage) and Cel-ing Fogata (Pomec).

Mesta and Hyatt Regency Saipan general manager Nick Nishikawa congratulated all the winners.

"We just wanted to recognize our hardworking staff. We just want to encourage and motivate them. By seeing these workers getting an award, other staff would say 'OK, I need to try also' so these awards motivate other staff as well," said Nishikawa.

Mesta said Hyatt Regency Saipan held its Celebrate Our People event together with every Hyatt hotel in the world.

"This event actually started since mid-June. We kind of give back to the employees and give gratitude for their hard work and getting us to where we have to be," she said.

Aside from the recognition ceremony, local Hyatt staff took part in parlor games, performed song and dance numbers, enjoyed live music by Maggie Naputi, and ate an island-style barbecue dinner. *(Mark Rabago)*

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IFC-Posse in action

October 2012 - June 2013

Independents Futbol Club receives funding from Project Brabu

The Independents Futbol Club or IFC received a sub grant from the Project Brabu to spread awareness about preventing underage drinking and drinking & driving to others in our community. This funding comes from the Strategic Planning Framework - State Incentive Grant (SPF-SIG) through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The project entitled IFC-Posse targets youth and young adults ages 14-24, promoting alternatives to drinking through soccer, in all its forms.

The sub grant award for roughly \$13,000 will be used to fulfill three objectives; 1) Provide safe and positive alternatives to underage drinking and drunk driving, 2) Promote the prevention of underage drinking and drinking & driving in our community, and 3) **Collect baseline data on the perceptions, reflections, and efficacy on preventing underage drinking/drunk driving.**

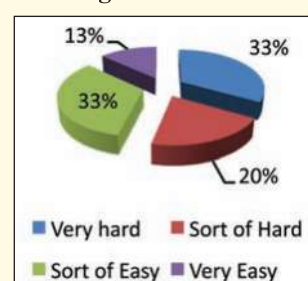
The project motto: You don't need alcohol to play Futbol.

The Results are In!

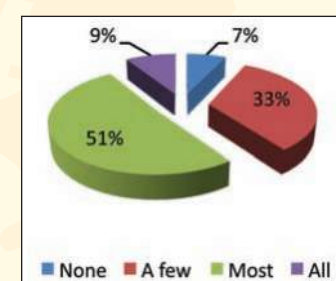
Data was taken from participants in the IFC-Posse at the beginning and end of each activity. 45 youth 14-20 years old were surveyed about their perceptions about How easy would it be to get alcohol; 53% said it was somewhat to very hard to get alcohol, while 47% said it was somewhat to very easy to get it. When surveyed about their perceptions about how many classmates they feel have drunk alcohol; 60% felt most or all of them have drunk alcohol. When asked if they knew they wouldn't get caught, would they still drink alcohol, 87% indicated they would not drink.

The IFC-Posse believe that by providing safe, healthy alternatives to underage drinking, greatly reduces the chances of our island's youth using alcohol and other drugs.

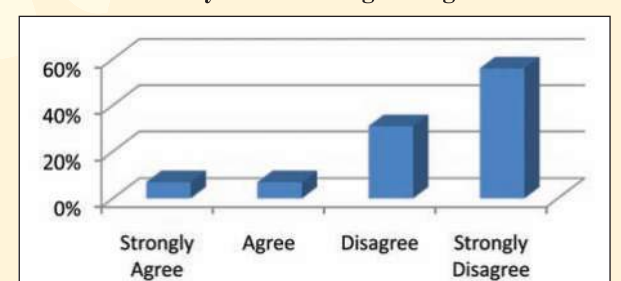
How easy is it to get alcohol?



How many of your classmates drink alcohol?



Would you drink alcohol, even if you knew you wouldn't get caught?



Saipan firm settles EEOC sex harassment suit for \$65K

Pacific Airport Services, Inc., an airport services provider for various airlines servicing Saipan, will pay \$65,000 and furnish other relief settle a sexual harassment and constructive discharge lawsuit filed by the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the federal agency announced yesterday.

The EEOC filed suit against the company in 2009, charging that a number of customer service agents were sexually harassed by their male supervisor while working for Pacific Airport Services at the Saipan International Airport between 2006 and 2007. The EEOC further asserts that the supervisor continuously subjected the women to sexual comments and advances, asking

the women to perform sexual acts. In at least one instance, the supervisor allegedly requested oral sex from one of the customer service agents. The supervisor also grabbed the women, fondled their buttocks and placed his pelvic area in front of a female employee's face, according to the EEOC.

Despite complaints about the sexual harassment to management, the EEOC said that the supervisor was not adequately disciplined since he maintained his supervisory authority. In fact, the EEOC contends that at least one of the women was forced to resign as a result of continued hostility on the part of her supervisor.

Sexual harassment and

constructive discharge (being forced to quit one's job because of intolerable conditions) violate Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The EEOC filed suit in U.S. District Court for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands (*EEOC v. Pacific Airport Services, Inc.*, case no. 09-0039) after first attempting to reach a pre-litigation settlement through its conciliation process.

The parties entered into a two-and-a-half year consent decree, requiring Pacific Airport Services to pay \$65,000 to the victims. The company further agreed to revise and distribute its policy and procedures on Title VII, sex discrimination and sexual harassment; designate an experienced equal employment opportunity consultant; con-

duct annual anti-harassment training for all employees; and create a centralized tracking system to monitor internal complaints of discrimination, harassment and retaliation. The company is required to report the handling of such complaints, along with measures to comply with the decree, to the EEOC.

"Workers have the right to earn a living without having to endure sexual harassment," said Anna Y. Park, regional attorney for the EEOC's Los Angeles District Office, which has jurisdiction over the CNMI. "Supervisors and upper management officials need to be the gatekeepers, ensuring that swift, proper action is taken to put a halt to sexual harassment in the workplace. The EEOC commends Pacific

ic Airport Services' willingness to take positive steps to properly train its staff to help ensure that sexual harassment will not be a problem there again."

Timothy Riera, director of the EEOC's Honolulu Local Office, which directly oversees the territory, said, "Employers are responsible for maintaining a harassment-free environment for their employees. Those who have a well-distributed policy against sexual harassment, train employees on the policy and employ staff who are able to effectively investigate complaints will go a long way toward preventing such abuses on the job."

According to its website, www.pas-saipan.com, Saipan-based Pacific Airport Services began in 1991 and provides a

variety of services for airlines on Saipan including technical operations, security, cleaning, and passenger services.

The EEOC enforces federal laws prohibiting employment discrimination. Further information about the EEOC is available on its website at www.eeoc.gov. (**EEOC**)

Compact impact resolution passed unanimously

HAGATNA, Guam—Island leaders at the 32nd Association of Pacific Island Legislature's General Assembly Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii applauded the Guam Legislature's efforts in recently passing Resolution 135-32 that requests the introduction of legislation by Guam's delegate to U.S. Congress, appropriating annual funds and payment from the U.S. Treasury, for outstanding compact impact funds.

Sen. Chris Duenas, author of the unanimously passed resolution, addressed island leaders at the APIL General Assembly Conference, on the regional significance of the resolution.

The resolution calls for the Guam delegate to Congress, Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU), to introduce legislation to recover past reimbursements from the federal government for hosting of citizens of the Freely Associated States. The resolution highlights four requests from the delegate:

1. The Guam Delegate to Congress introduce legislation that appropriates \$50M per annum until the outstanding amount of compact impact costs due and payable have been paid in full.
2. The annual appropriation of \$50 million is *in addition to* any sums that are to be appropriated in each fiscal year for compact impact reimbursement costs.

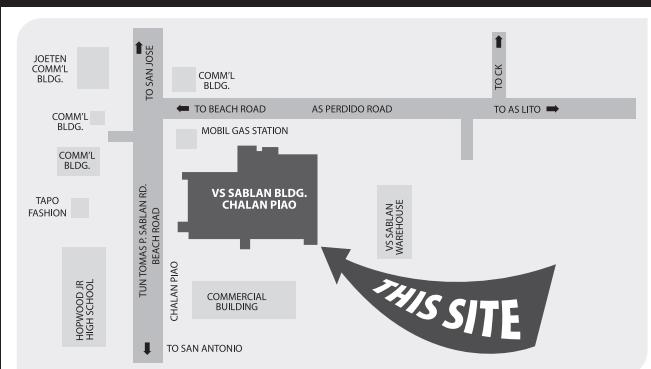
3. The additional appropriation's source of funding is the U.S. Treasury.

4. Congressional hearings on such legislation are held in Guam at a time and location convenient to the House of Representatives and the people of Guam.

"I was both humbled and pleased that the resolution received support from many of the insular areas under the jurisdiction of the Department of the Interior as well as the island's administered by the COFA agreement. There is recognition that the lack of reimbursement affects government services and quality of life for everyone who resides on Guam," Duenas said.

Duenas said he looks forward to the working with Bordallo on the issue. (**PR**)

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Grace Christian Assembly to open southern church

After more than a quarter century of ministry in the Northern Marianas, Grace Christian Assembly is branching out to the four corners of Saipan with the opening of a new church in San Antonio on Sunday, July 7.

Following the opening of a new church in Kagman several years ago, GCA will launch Sunday morning service in a new church building across from Pacific Islands Club Saipan at 10am on Sunday.

"Since we started this ministry, we have believed that the harvest is ripe, that people are ready to come to know God on a deeper, more personal level," said Rev. Raymond Kinsella, District Presbyter of the General Council of the Marianas and Palau Islands. "Branching out to Kagman, San Antonio, and eventually northern Saipan is a

fulfillment of the vision to better meet the spiritual and practical needs of our community."

The new pastor for GCA South will be Pastor Alain Nunez who, along with his wife Pastor Beth Nunez, have been ministering in San Antonio for the last two years with a mid-week service at Her-Joy's Apartments.

"The vision of our church is to positively impact San Antonio and the surrounding areas through sharing God's Word, acts of service, and acts of love," said Nunez. "We look forward to having many people in the community come and join us this Sunday and in the Sundays to follow."

The general public is invited to join Grace Christian Assembly South for weekly services every Sunday at 10am. (PR)

Yvette proud to finish in Top 15, win Spirit Prize

Saipan-born Yvette Bennett said she feels she already accomplished something by finishing in the Top 15 of last Saturday's 2013 Miss USA International pageant in Kissimmee, Florida.

So it was another feather in her cap, the reigning Miss Idaho U.S. International said, that she also took home the competition's Spirit Award.

"My reaction being called for the Top 15 was just so rewarding. I was called second out of 15 and even though the order you were called did not matter, I was so happy and relieved to be called second."

"As for the Spirit Award I was so happy to receive the award. This award was given to the contestant who had the most advertisement sales in the pageant magazine. I was able to

have great sponsors to help me get advertisement spots and which allowed me to thank and show all my sponsors. I was honestly not too surprised that I won this award because I go into a pageant with the mindset that I have to win something, no matter what it is. This has honestly helped me stay focused, positive, confident, and competitive but in a classy way," she said in an email yesterday to the *Saipan Tribune*.

The daughter of former Public School System teacher representative Ambrose Bennett and his wife Lilianne said overall the pageant was



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan-born Miss Idaho U.S. International Yvette Bennett proudly shows the Top 15 and Spirit Award plaques she won in last Saturday's 2013 Miss USA International pageant in Kissimmee, Florida.

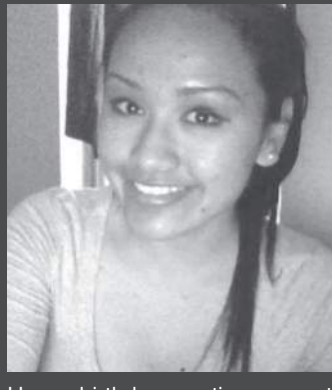
come. I also would love to thank all my sponsors in Idaho and in the CNMI for even making this experience possible and I could not have been more blessed to have such generous sponsors! Also, thank you to all my great supporters that followed my journey through social media and for the encouraging comments and messages, they were all so helpful and motivating. I can't wait to see what else is in store for me but I do know that my journey has just begun!"

Miss Colorado International Andrea Neu eventually won the 2013 Miss USA International pageant. (Mark Rabago)

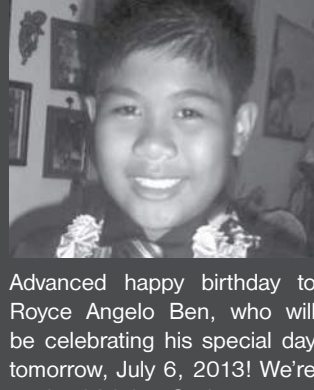
BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



Happy birthday Edel Mendiola! We love you.



Happy birthday greetings go out to Joserin "Rinrin" Mendiola in California! We love you.



Advanced happy birthday to Royce Angelo Ben, who will be celebrating his special day tomorrow, July 6, 2013! We're so thankful that God gave us a son like you! Wishing you all the best in life. We love you!



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- Seems unhappy or sad much of the time
- Doesn't express a wide range of emotions
- Can't tell the difference between fantasy and reality
- Can't correctly give first and last name
- Doesn't talk about his/her daily activities and experiences
- Seems uncomfortable holding a crayon
- Cannot brush teeth efficiently
- Experiences a dramatic loss of skills he or she once had

Learn the Signs. Act Early.

You may also contact the **Children's Developmental Assistance Center (C*DAC)** at **664-4830**

for a **FREE** developmental screening!

Information adapted from the Center of Disease Control and Prevention, Learn the Signs. Act Early. Supported in part by project H25MC06112 from the MCHB (Title V, Social Security Act), HRSA, DHHS.



WATER QUALITY REPORT NOW AVAILABLE

Your 2012 CUC Annual Water Quality Report is now available on-line!

Please go to <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/CCR-2012.pdf> to view what contaminants were detected in your water in 2012 and learn more about your drinking water. This report contains important information about the source and quality of your drinking water.

If you need the report translated, wish to speak with someone about the report, or would like a paper copy delivered or emailed to you, please call CUC at (670) 664-4282.

AYOOR REPOD

Yóómw 2012 CUC Annual Water Quality Report nge a llo on-line!

Uló reel <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/CCR-2012.pdf> bwe ubwe weri meta mil ngaw kka re schungi llól yóómw schaal llól 2012 me ubwe bwal ghi mataf reel úlómómw schaal. Amataffal kkal nge eghi auscheya reel yááyál me ghatchúl yóómw schaal.

Faingi CUC reel (670) 664-4282 ngare u tipeli rebwe seleti ngalúgh amataff kkal, kkapas ngali eschay, me ngare u mwuschel eew kkopiya rebwe bwughi lló reemw me ngare afanga ngalúgh.

GUMUAHA RIPOT PÁ'GU

I iyom-mu 2012 CUC Annual na Ripot Kuáldât Hânum esta pá'gu gumuaha gi on-line!

Put fabot hânão para i <http://www.cucgov.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/06/CCR-2012.pdf> para u ma'atan hâfa na contaminants manmasodda' gi halum hanom-mu gi 2012 yan para un tungu' mäs put i hanum magimin. Esti na ripot ha sasahguan siha manimopttânti na imfotmasion put i source yan kuáldât i hanum magimin.

Yanggin un nisisita i ripot matranslâda, ya malagu' hão kumuentusi hâyi put i ripot pat malagu' hão kopian pãppit u ma'entrega pat mana'hânão guatu para hâgu, put fabot âgang i CUC gi (670) 664-4282.





COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE OF THE AIR-CONDITIONING UNITS AT THE FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND AT SEAPORT, PORT OF SAIPAN.

CPA-IFB-001-13

INVITATION FOR BIDS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed bids from qualified air-conditioning and refrigeration companies for Preventive Maintenance Service of the Air-Conditioning Units at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and Seaport, Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Bid Package is available for pick-up beginning July 08, 2013 from 0800 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor, Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport. The Bid Package includes the Scope of Work and other bid considerations upon payment of One Hundred Dollars (\$100.00) to be paid at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd Floor of the Departure Terminal Building. Bidders must submit all required documents listed in the Scope of Work. All responses to this IFB shall also take into account any and/or all costs that will be charged to the bidder awarded the contract for the project. Bidders shall also take into consideration all necessary badging requirements and fees for this project.

The term of the Preventive Maintenance Services shall be for two (2) years. Performance and Payment Bonds will be required for this project and the cost of acquiring the bonds should be included in the bid price.

All bids shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Bid Proposal for the Preventive Maintenance of the Air-Conditioning Units at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport and at Seaport, Port of Saipan, CPA-IFB-001-13."** One (1) original and two (2) copies of the bid must be submitted no later than 4:30 p.m. LOCAL TIME, August 09, 2013, to the Office of the Executive Director at the aforementioned location.

All bids will be evaluated based on the following factors: (1) price, (2) company experience, (3) sufficiency and experience of workers, (4) schedule of operations, (5) ability to obtain insurance requirements, and (6) financial capability to provide required spare parts and supplies.

Bidders are required to obtain insurance policies based on CPA's requirements; copies of the insurance requirements are included in the scope of work.

A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the CPA Seaport Conference Room, Port of Saipan at 10:00 a.m., July 23, 2013, to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. A walk through of the Seaport facility will follow immediately after the conference. A subsequent walk through of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport will follow the next day, July 24, 2013, at 9:00 a.m.. Only bidders present at the pre-bid conference will be allowed to submit bids. Questions must be in writing and faxed to the Executive Director at (670)234-5962 or via email at cpa.admin@pticom.com at least seven (7) days prior to the pre-bid conference.

Bidders will be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This IFB and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CPA Procurement Regulations. Bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so, would be in CPA's best interest. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest. All bids shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ MARYANN Q. LIZAMA
Acting Executive Director

A. Samoa citizenship suit dismissed

By FILI SAGAPOLUTELE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

PAGO PAGO, American Samoa (AP)—A federal judge in Washington, D.C., is dismissing a lawsuit filed by five American Samoa residents who say people born in the unincorporated U.S. territory should automatically receive U.S. citizenship.

U.S. District Judge Richard Leon ruled this week that the 14th Amendment's citizenship clause doesn't apply to people born in American Samoa.

Immigration laws classify people born in American Samoa as U.S. nationals, but it's the only U.S. territory where U.S. citizenship is not a birthright.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Wynne Kelly argued that Congress has the power to determine the naturalization process for potential citizens, and the lawsuit was trying to sidestep that. Kelly represented the federal government and three U.S. State Department officials as defendants.

Eni Faleomavaega, the territory's non-voting delegate to the U.S. House, filed a brief last year arguing that Congress is the proper venue to decide

citizenship, not the courts.

Leon said in his Wednesday ruling that he agreed with the government's argument that previous Supreme Court and federal court rulings as well as historical practice trumped the plaintiffs' assertions.

"Federal courts have held over and over again that unincorporated territories are not included within the citizenship clause, and this court sees no reason to do otherwise," Leon said.

"To date, Congress has not seen fit to bestow birthright citizenship upon American Samoa, and in accordance with the law, this court must and will respect that choice," he said.

American Samoa is the only U.S. territory without the birthright of citizenship. Leon said people in the unincorporated territories of Guam, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands got birthright citizenship through various laws years after being acquired by the U.S. That wouldn't have been necessary if the Constitution granted citizenship to

people in unincorporated territories, he said.

Charles Alailima, an attorney for the American Samoa residents and a California group who sued, said he was disappointed the judge did not focus on American Samoa's unique history and circumstances.

He said he will be discussing options for an appeal with his clients.

"We've known all along that the significant constitutional issues in this case would be decided on appeal, no matter which way the trial judge decided," he said.

The lawsuit's lead plaintiff, Leneuot Tuaua, said he doesn't think the issue should be up to Congress.

"(So) long as American Samoa is U.S. soil, I continue to believe that the Constitution guarantees my family the right to citizenship," he said.

Faleomavaega said he agrees with the ruling but isn't opposed to citizenship for American Samoans.

"The decision should be made by the people and not by a court," he said. "After the people decide they desire citizenship, I can work with Congress on legislation to provide citizenship for persons born in American Samoa."



Faleomavaega



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-13-021

CONSTRUCTION OF 300K GALLON TANK REPLACEMENT FOR PAPAGO TANK

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), Office of the Executive Director, is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of a 300K Gallon Tank Replacement for Papago Tank for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

The selected firm shall have experience in construction and design of pre-stressed concrete and or welded steel water storage tanks. The work consists of demolition of the existing glass-fused, steel bolted 0.50 million gallon tank and its foundation; construction of the new 300K gallon tank as per approved design, foundation, tank appurtenances, and yard piping and connections.

The project is to be completed in **300 calendar days** from date of contract award.

The Bid Tender Documents may be secured, upon receipt of payment by the CUC Treasury Section by cash, check or credit card of \$100.00. The payment is non-refundable. The payment receipt shall be presented to the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Dandan, Saipan, between 7:30 AM to 11:30 AM and 12:30 PM to 4:00 PM, Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled on July 11, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. (ChST), at the CUC Safety & Compliance Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No. 14, Joeten Dandan, Commercial Building.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This Invitation for Bids and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-13-021, Construction of 300K Gallon Tank Replacement for Papago Tank" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on August 6, 2013**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement this form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. Insufficient copies of bid submitted can be subject to technical default and rejection of bid.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A Payment Bond of one hundred percent (100%) and a Performance Bond of one hundred percent (100%) of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. For the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract, the Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurer questions, concerns and qualification shall be governed by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code. Please refer to other bidding requirements described in Section 002113 - Instructions to Bidders.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 19, 2013 to Manny B. Sablan, Jr., CUC Procurement & Supply Manager, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to John Riegel, Water/Wastewater, Chief Engineer via email john.riegel@cucgov.org & Christi Lazaro, Water Division Assistant Engineer via email Christi.lazaro@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of the Commonwealth utilities Corporation.

ALAN FLETCHER
Acting Executive Director



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Joeten Commercial Building, Gualo Kai, Saipan, MP 96950

INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW13-IFB-004

Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids proposal for the **Construction of Sidewalk at Oleai Street, Saipan**, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after July 5, 2013 at the Department of Public Works, Technical Services Division, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division. All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, dated May 24, 2001.

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on July 16, 2013 at 09:00 a.m. local time at the Project Site, Oleai Street, Oleai Elementary School Entrance, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on July 19, 2013 to **Mr. Vicente C. Cabrera, Acting Director, Technical Services Division**, Oleai Commercial Center, Suite 214 or fax to (670) 234-3547.

Sealed bids must be marked **"DPW13-IFB-004"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 10:00 a.m. local time July 24, 2013. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time July 24, 2013, and be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than July 24, 2013, and must be received no later than July 31, 2013. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 9:30 a.m. local time, August 02, 2013. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 10:00 a.m. local time, on July 25, 2013.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security may be a Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certificate (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the **Northern Marianas Island Administrative Code Section 70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) Current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island, and
- b) Under penalty of perjury, a certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Government Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payments or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond.

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred and Twenty (120) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed at One Hundred Dollars (**US \$100.00**) per calendar day for delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/MARTIN C. SABLAN
Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director Procurement and Supply

Business

Economic boom spreads wealth wider in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Just three years ago, a new car and an overseas holiday were unthinkable luxuries for J. Ante and her family of six. The insurance company manager's commissions have soared since then as the Philippines, blighted for a generation by venal and incompetent leaders, has unexpectedly boomed, putting middle-class comforts within tantalizing reach of many.

The \$250 billion economy surged 7.8 percent in the first quarter of this year, outpacing China, and a middle class stunted by widespread poverty, political strife and corruption is beginning to share in a prosperity captured for decades by a clannish business and political elite.

The growing affluence and a burgeoning population have lured many global brands. Students and office workers flock to gleaming outlets opened by Zara, Gap, Forever 21, Starbucks and Japan's Uniqlo. New apartment blocks are springing up on almost every corner of metropolitan Manila and other cities, often clustered around malls and office buildings housing outsourcing businesses such as call centers, which are forecast to earn around \$25 billion by 2016.

Luxury car maker Rolls Royce said it was flooded with inquiries since it opened its first dealership in Manila two weeks ago. The first car selling for \$605,000 went to a popular TV show host, according to newspaper reports.

"Last year and this year have been a big leap in terms of my total income," Ante said. "Times have become better for our family."

She said three years ago it was difficult to come up with the school fees for her four children. Travel abroad or a new car were impossible, but "they seem more realistic now since my income is growing at a faster rate," she said. The family holidayed in Hong Kong this year and a vacation in the U.S. and Canada is planned. They hope to afford a family-friendly Toyota Innova this year.

Many credit the new vitality to the policies of President Benigno Aquino III, elected in 2010 on promises of eradicating graft and fighting poverty. He introduced new taxes, reformed the judiciary, and set the country on a path that shows sign of enduring—it has now enjoyed three straight quarters of economic growth above 7 percent. Standard and Poor's and Fitch Ratings



In this Tuesday July 2, 2013 photo, construction is in progress at a reclamation site on Manila Bay amidst buildings in the background.

earlier this year upgraded the Philippines' credit rating to investment grade for the first time.

"Disposable income has increased and we see a rising middle class," said Jose E.B. Antonio, chairman of Century Properties Group that brought in Donald Trump's sons and Paris Hilton to launch luxury condos in Manila.

Sheila Abay, a real estate agent for the past 10 years, said competition in her industry has become stiffer but she still sells more condominiums these days compared to five or 10 years ago.

The bulk of her clients are Filipinos working abroad, who buy property for retirement or investment. Over the last few

years, however, she said she has seen a growing number of younger clients mostly aged 25 to 35. Many of them are mid-level managers at outsourcing companies who receive good pay for doing backroom operations for overseas companies.

"Their buying power is bigger," she said.

It adds up to dramatic shift for a country that has perennially lagged most of its Southeast Asian neighbors despite perceived advantages of a relatively free media, democratic elections and widespread use of English—the language of global business.

The Philippines is only sixth among 10 Southeast Asian countries in terms of GDP per

head. Compared with Indonesia, which attracted nearly \$20 billion in foreign investment last year, the Philippines managed only \$2.8 billion, not far from \$2.2 billion for Myanmar, a pariah state until recently. Thailand wooed more than 22 million visitors last year, the Philippines received 4.3 million.

Doubts still linger whether the country can stay on its new course.

President Aquino, in the mold of his late parents—democracy icon and former President Corazon Aquino and anti-dictatorship champion Benigno Aquino Jr.—won the presidency on a reformist platform following two corruption-tainted predecessors. His term ends in 2016.

But in a country where powerful families dominate politics and "name recall" ensures votes even for corrupt or incompetent leaders, another wrong turn can reverse recent gains.

There is a still a long way to go before the 28 percent of the population who live below the poverty line feel they too are benefiting from the boom that has dotted Manila with cranes and propelled the local stock market to new heights.

Elizabeth Yap, a 51-year-old single woman with close-

cropped hair, scrapes a living by pedaling her tricycle around Manila to ferry passengers. She makes 400 to 500 pesos (\$9 to \$11) on good days, when she does not run afoul of law enforcers on their on-and-off campaign to clear the capital's traffic-choked streets.

"How can we feel the progress in the Philippines when we are poor," Yap said. "We can see the nice buildings, but for us poor, we can see that we are still poor."

Antonio, the property developer, believes it's only a matter of time before prosperity trickles down. He called for more focus on building infrastructure—roads, airports, hotels, restaurants—to support the tourism industry, which he said is a key to providing jobs for drivers, farmers, cooks and other lower income groups.

Despite the strong economic growth, joblessness soared to 7.5 percent in April, up from 6.9 percent a year earlier. Another 19.2 percent were "underemployed," or part-time workers.

Aquino blamed the increase in joblessness to delays in the planting season due to poor weather, leaving farm workers temporarily out of work during the survey period.

2013-2014 Application For Free School Meals is now available at all public schools and at the Public School System FNS Office

PUBLIC RELEASE STATEMENT REGARDING THE NATIONAL SCHOOL LUNCH AND BREAKFAST PROGRAMS AVAILABLE AT LOCAL SCHOOLS

The Public School System Food and Nutrition Services Program today announced its policy for children unable to pay the full price of meals served under the National School Lunch Program and School Breakfast Program. Regardless of financial standing and participation in programs such as WIC or NAP, a new free school meal application must be completed and submitted each school year to receive free school meal benefits.

Meal prices for the 2013-2014 school year will remain the same as the previous year. Students may buy a subsidized school breakfast for \$0.50. Additional breakfasts can be purchased for \$2.00 at elementary schools and \$2.50 at secondary schools. Students may purchase a school lunch for \$0.75. Additional lunches can be purchased for \$3.10 at elementary schools and \$3.65 at secondary schools.

Application forms are now available at the PSS Food and Nutrition Office and are being sent to all public schools with a notice to parents or guardians. Applications are available at Tinian Elementary School and Rota Junior High School as well. To apply for free meals, households must fill out the application and return it to the school or to the PSS Food and Nutrition Services office. The information provided on the application will be used for the purpose of determining eligibility and may be verified at any time during the school year by school or other program officials. Applications may be submitted at any time during the school year. The application can be downloaded from the PSS website at http://www.cnmipss.org/?page_id=213.

To obtain free meals for children for whose households receive Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) benefits, an adult member needs only to list the names of the school children, give a valid food stamp case number for each child, sign his/her name, list his/her social security number, and return the application to the school office. If any student listed does not have a valid food stamp number, then the entire application must be completed with accompanying income verification documents.

For the school officials to determine eligibility for free meals of households not receiving Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) benefits, the household must provide the following information requested on the application: names of all household members, and the social security number of the adult household member who signs the application. In lieu of a social security number, the household may indicate that the signer does not possess a social security number. Also, the income received by each household member must be provided by amount and source (wages, SSI, child support, etc.). For verification purposes, copies of the two most recent check stubs must be included with the application. Failure to include these items will delay the processing of the application.

Under the provisions of the free meal policy, the PSS Food and Nutrition Services Manager will review applications and determine eligibility. If a parent or guardian is dissatisfied with the ruling of the official, he/she may wish to discuss the decision with the determining official on an informal basis. If the parent/guardian wishes to make a formal appeal, he/she may make a request either orally or in writing to: Mr. Dale Roberts, PSS Food and Nutrition Services Program Manager located in government house 1251 located on Capital Hill, Saipan.

If a household member becomes unemployed or if the household size changes, the family should contact the FNS Office. Such changes may make the household eligible for free meals if the household income falls at or below the IEG levels listed in the chart, and they may reapply at that time.

In most cases, foster children are also eligible for these benefits. If a household has foster children living with them and wishes to apply for free school meals, the household should complete an application for a family of one or contact the FNS office for more information.

The information provided by the household on the application is confidential. PSS is authorized to release student free and school meal eligibility status only to persons directly connected with the administration and enforcement of federal or state educational programs.

2013-2014 Application For Free School Meals - FNS Form 1000-1 (Rev. 12/12)

Application for Free School Meals - CNMI Public School System - Food and Nutrition Services

Part 1: List each Student's name and information. List names how they are registered at their schools. Write the Food Stamp Card Number if applicable.

Student's Last Name	Student's First Name	Middle Initial	Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY)	Grade (K-12)	School Name	Food Stamp # (if applicable)	SSI or other income to child (if any)
1.							
2.							
3.							
4.							
5.							
6.							
7.							
8.							

Part 2: List all other members of the household. Do not include students listed above in Part 1. Report all current income received last month. Attach copies of last month's check stubs for income verification.

Names of All Household Members (do not include students listed in Part 1)		Check box if disabled (YES/NO)	Household Gross Income (For each household member, list each kind of income and how often it is received: weekly, bi-weekly (every 2 weeks), twice per month, monthly. If the person receives no income, place a check in the box next to the person's name.)	Any other income
Last Name	First Name		Wages and salaries from all jobs before deductions	Pension, SS, Retirement, Social Security
1.			\$ per	\$ per
2.			\$ per	\$ per
3.			\$ per	\$ per
4.			\$ per	\$ per
5.			\$ per	\$ per

Part 3: Signature and Social Security Number: An adult listed in Part 2 must sign the application and provide a social security number before it can be approved.

I certify (promise) that all of the above information is true and correct and that all income is reported. I certify that I have listed all persons living in our household. I understand that this information is being given for the receipt of federal funds, that PSS officials may verify (check) the information on the application, and that deliberate misrepresentation of the information may subject me to prosecution under applicable Commonwealth or Federal laws and my children may lose meal benefits.

Signature of Parent or Legal Guardian: _____ Date: _____

Print your name: _____ Mailing Address: PO Box _____ City/Town/Zip: _____

Social Security Number (if none, write "none"): _____ Daytime Telephone: _____

Categorical Eligibility: NAP _____ Income _____ Temporary until: _____ DYS _____ Other _____

Total Monthly Income: _____ Household Size: _____

Monthly Income Conversion: Weekly x 4.33 Bi-weekly x 2.15 Twice a month x 2 Verified by: _____

Signature of Determining Official: FNS Administrator, _____ Date: _____, 2013

2013-2014 Federal Income Guidelines (IEG) for Free Meal Eligibility. If your household income falls within these guidelines your children MAY be eligible to receive free school meals.

Household Size	Annual	Monthly	2x per Month	Bi-weekly	Weekly
1	\$ 14,937	\$ 1,245	\$ 623	\$ 575	\$ 288
2	20,163	1,681	841	776	388
3	25,389	2,116	1,058	977	489
4	30,615	2,552	1,276	1,178	589
5	35,841	2,987	1,494	1,379	690
6	41,067	3,423	1,712	1,580	790
7	46,293	3,858	1,929	1,781	891
8	51,519	4,294	2,147	1,982	991
Add'l member, Add.....	+ 5,226	+ 436	+ 218	+ 201	+ 101

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to the determining official.

Children determined eligible for free meals last school year will receive free meals for up to 30 days after the opening of school on September 3, 2013. To avoid delays in free school meal services due to processing, all applications should be completed and submitted to PSS FNS before September 20, 2013.

Any questions regarding the application should be directed to the determining official. The PSS FNS office can be reached on Saipan: 664-3901 / 3902 or fax 664-3717, Tinian: 237-4106/4105, Rota: 237-4046/4041/4042

Nation

July 4 in Prescott: Balance of grief, patriotism

PRESCOTT, Ariz. (AP)—The notoriously rambunctious annual rodeo contest in Prescott added a solemn new ritual this week: a cowboy leading a riderless horse around the outdoor arena, a fire helmet sitting on its saddle, fire boots resting in the stirrups.

Spectators in this Old West town of 40,000 placed straw hats over hearts and cried quietly during the tribute to the 19 firefighters who were killed Sunday, then went on to drink, laugh and cheer as heartily as the miners and ranchers who patronized the arena in the 1800s.

Emotional whiplash has become a matter of course here as residents try to move on and enjoy the biggest tourism week of the year, while also mourning the men who were the town’s pride. The famous saloons on Whiskey Row continue to hum, the Fourth of July fireworks show

is going on as usual, and attendance is holding steady at the weeklong “World’s Oldest Rodeo” event, even as memorials proliferate on Prescott’s elm-lined streets and relatives fly in for funerals.

“It’s not going to do anyone any good just sitting in the house. I think it’s more important to spend time with people than anything else,” said financial planner Andrew Secundy, who cut loose at the rodeo Monday night and mourned at a twilight vigil Tuesday.

A mile-high city about 90 miles northwest of Phoenix, Prescott remains a modern-day outpost of the pioneer spirit, a place where rootin’ tootin’ cowboys still have a foothold. It’s that spirit that will guide officials as they navigate the days ahead and figure out how to honor the elite Hotshot firefighters who died in a nearby wind-driven wildfire that is still burning, said Prescott Fire Marshal Don Devendorf.

“The people on the range, on ranches, they did whatever they could do. It wasn’t money,

but it was love, it was caring, it was sweat,” Devendorf said as he walked among thousands of mourners who filled the Prescott High School football stadium for Tuesday’s vigil. Nineteen balloons—one for each of the fallen—were released into the air. “People need a reason to celebrate,” he said. “They need to know that life is going to get back to normal.”

But the town is still hurting. There’s a saying here that if someone dies in Prescott, you either know the person or know someone who did. That rings especially true for the Granite Mountain Hotshot fire crew, who were at the apex of Prescott’s thriving firefighting community. At least five of those killed graduated from Prescott High School.

Until Sunday, the quaint town was home to two of the Southwest’s 18 highly qualified Hotshot crews. That was a point of pride among residents, who trace their links to local firefighters through dense networks of cousins and in-laws.

“There’s a lot of people who grow up and want to be fire-

fighters here,” said Prescott native Ryan Philips, who worked as a Hotshot for three years.

Numerous state and federal forestry workers call Prescott home, while firefighters from all over the country flock here for training at the annual Arizona Wildfire Academy at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. The town abuts 1.25 million acres of national forest in an area that sees its share of wild-land blazes.

A week before the Hotshot men were killed, crews fighting another fire turned the Prescott High baseball field into a tent city.

Bursting with Americana, Prescott is a deeply patriotic, religious town where even teenage boys sing “Amazing Grace” in their full voices.

Tourism blossoms in this one-time territorial capital of Arizona during the summer, when suffocating city-slickers flee Phoenix and Tucson for Prescott’s relatively verdant embrace. Retirees are also drawn by the milder weather and old-time atmosphere. Relics of the Old West decorate the windows of antique shops and galleries. The picturesque courthouse plaza is lined with Arizona state flags, all at half-staff now.



A rodeo outrider leads a riderless horse with a firefighter’s helmet and boots in the stirrups before the start of the Prescott Frontier Days Rodeo, Wednesday, July 3, 2013 in Prescott, Ariz.



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB13-DLNR/DFW-141



SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JULY 23, 2013 • TIME: 1:00 P.M.

“FABRICATION OF EIGHT (8) FISH AGGREGATING DEVICE (FAD) BUOYS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF FISH & WILDLIFE”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ARNOLD I. PALACIOS
SECRETARY OF DLNR

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB13-DPS-139-FOB SAIPAN



SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JULY 23, 2013 TIME: 11:00 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF FOUR (4) POLICE MOTORCYCLES FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES C. DELEON GUERRERO
COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

ITB13-TDOC-138



SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: JULY 23, 2013 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“OFFICE SPACE RENTAL FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, TINIAN BRANCH”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE BIDDER MUST COMPLY WITH CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5 SECTION 8652 (A)-(D).

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RAMON M. DELA CRUZ
MAYOR OF TINIAN

/S/ JOSE P. CRUZ
RESIDENT DEPARTMENT HEAD
TINIAN DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP: RFP13-HSEM-135



SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 18, 2013 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“REPAIR OF A DPS – FIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE VEHICLE”

COPIES OF THE RFP PACKET MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A MANDATORY VEHICLE INSPECTION IS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 09, 2013 AT 1:00 P.M., MARIANAS REPAIRS CO., INC. LOCATED AT MIDDLE ROAD, SAIPAN.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ MARVIN K. SEMAN
SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR HOMELAND
SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Coastal Resources Management



Caller Box 10007, Behind Department of Public Safety
Bureau of Motor Vehicle, Susupe, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 • FAX NO. 664-8315



COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

NOTICE OF MEETING

OF THE

CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Governor Jude U. Hofschneider through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials Meeting will be held on Tuesday, July 09, 2013, at 10:00 A.M. at the CRM Office located behind the Department of Public Safety Bureau of Motor Vehicle in Susupe.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

a) Call to Order

b) Roll Call

II. PERMIT APPLICATION

TASI HOMES DEVELOPMENT - CRM PERMIT NO. SMS-2013-X-031

a. Permit Application Summary

b. Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO

c. Permit Application Status

KALABERA CAVE DEVELOPMENT - CRM PERMIT NO. SMS-2013-X-049

a. Permit Application Summary

b. Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO

c. Permit Application Status

III. OTHER MATTERS

IV. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

/S/ ANA C. AGULTO
Acting Administrator

Joblessness still hangs over an improving US economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—Unemployment under President Barack Obama has remained high for the longest period since the Great Depression. Despite a slowly improving job market, the millions of Americans without jobs underscore weakness in the recovery, drag down consumer spending and still roil the nation’s politics.

Wall Street has had its jitters but the stock market remains high, consumer confidence has improved and the housing market is making a solid comeback.

Yet, while economic conditions change, much remains the same.

On Friday, the government will release its monthly jobs report, and economists predict that U.S. employers added 165,000 jobs in June. That’s fewer than in May and far short of the number of new jobs needed to push the unemployment rate down significantly from its current perch at 7.6 percent.

Unemployment has dropped from a high of 10 percent in October 2009. It also is the last consequence of a recession to show improvement in a recovery. But the jobless rate has remained at or above 7.5 percent for 53 months, a period that has left an unusually large number of people out of the work force for so long that some of them will likely never work again. Nearly 12 million people are searching for work and millions more are underemployed in involuntary part-time jobs.

The rate will take time to bring down, adding pressure on the economy and creating political problems for Obama and his Democratic allies in Congress. Moreover, experts say the rate could plateau at a higher level than the 4.7 percent unemployment in place before the recession hit in 2008.

LAW OFFICES OF S. JOSHUA BERGER
D' TORRES BUILDING. GARAPAN
P.O. Box 504340
SAIPAN, MP 96950
Phone (670) 235-8060 Fax 235-8070
Attorney for Plaintiff



IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF SAIPAN, INC.,
Plaintiff,
v.
ANTONIO GUSMAN ADRIANO and
MARGARITA FLORES CAMACHO fka
MARGARITA C. ADRIANO,
Defendants.

CIVIL ACTION
NO.: 12-0265
NOTICE OF
FORECLOSURE
SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 21, 2013, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right and interests of Defendants in and to the following real property:
Lot No. 001 T 54, containing an area of 1,723 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 T 00.
1. **Date, Time and Place of Sale.** The sale is open to the general public (including the Defendant), and will be held on **Friday, July 26, 2013, at the hour of 11:15 a.m. at the entrance to the Tinian Superior Court, Tinian, CNMI.** Registration for the auction sale will begin at 11:00 a.m.
2. **Change of Terms and Conditions.** The undersigned reserves the right to change the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, before the auction date and time or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, will be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.
DATED, this 7th day of June, 2013.
/s/ MICHELINE W. BREL, Auctioneer
P.O. Box 504340, Saipan
Tel: (670) 235-8060
Fax: (670) 235-8070
E-mail: mchbrel@hotmail.com
4th Publication

World

Egypt's army ousts Morsi, who calls it a 'coup'

CAIRO (AP)—Egypt's first democratically elected president was overthrown by the military Wednesday, ousted after just one year in office by the same kind of Arab Spring uprising that brought the Islamist leader to power.

The armed forces announced they would install a temporary civilian government to replace Islamist President Mohammed Morsi, who denounced the action as a "full coup" by the generals. They also suspended the Islamist-drafted constitution and called for new elections.

Millions of anti-Morsi protesters around the country erupted in celebrations after the televised announcement by the army chief. Fireworks burst over crowds in Cairo's Tahrir Square, where men and women danced, shouting, "God is great" and "Long live Egypt."

Fearing a violent reaction by Morsi's Islamist supporters, troops and armored vehicles deployed in the streets of Cairo and elsewhere, surrounding Islamist rallies. Clashes erupted in several provincial cities when Islamists opened fire on police, with at least nine people killed, security officials said.



Opponents of Egypt's Islamist President Mohammed Morsi shout slogans and wave a national flags in Tahrir Square in Cairo, Egypt, Wednesday, July 3, 2013.

Gehad el-Haddad, a spokesman for the Muslim Brotherhood party, said Morsi was under house arrest at a Presidential Guard facility where he had been residing, and 12 presidential aides also were under house arrest.

The army took control of state media and blacked out TV stations operated by the Muslim Brotherhood. The head of the Brotherhood's political wing was arrested.

The ouster of Morsi throws Egypt on an uncertain course, with a danger of further confrontation. It came after four days of

mass demonstrations even larger than those of the 2011 Arab Spring that toppled longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak.

Egyptians were angered that Morsi was giving too much power to his Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamists and had failed to tackle the country's mounting economic woes.

Beyond the fears over violence, some protesters are concerned whether an army-installed administration can lead to real democracy.

President Barack Obama urged the military to hand back control to a democratic, civilian

government as soon as possible but stopped short of calling it a coup d'etat.

He said he was "deeply concerned" by the military's move to topple Morsi's government and suspend Egypt's constitution. He said he was ordering the U.S. government to assess what the military's actions meant for U.S. foreign aid to Egypt—\$1.5 billion a year in military and economic assistance.

The U.S. wasn't taking sides in the conflict, committing itself only to democracy and respect for the rule of law, Obama said.

Dior

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The Muslim Brotherhood

Egypt's oldest Islamist organization, the Muslim Brotherhood, has grown into a worldwide Sunni Islamist movement with branches in more than 70 countries. Its stated goal is to create states ruled by Islamic law, or Sharia.

History in Egypt

1928 Founded by Hassan al Banna to spread Islamic morals, charitable works; became involved in politics to drive British from Egypt

1948 Dissolved by Egyptian government for attacking British, Jewish interests; accused of assassinating Prime Minister Mahnoud al Nuqrashi

1952 Plays supporting role in coup ending colonial rule

1954 Banned after failed attempt to assassinate President Gamal Abdul Nasser; grows underground

1964 Writings of one prominent member, Sayyid Qutb, who advocated jihad (struggle), inspire founding of radical groups, including Islamic Jihad and al-Qaida

1980s Tries to rejoin political mainstream, forming alliances with major political parties, wins seats in parliament

2005 Wins 20 percent of seats, leading President Hosni Mubarak to have the constitution rewritten, banning religious political parties

2010-2011 Brotherhood-aligned candidates win no parliamentary seats, leading to accusations of fraud; Arab Spring protests ensue, leading to ouster of Mubarak

2012 Muslim Brotherhood candidate Mohammed Morsi elected president; a year later, he is ousted by the country's military after widespread protests call for him to step down

Spread worldwide
Egypt

Additional Middle Eastern and North African nations where the group has a significant presence

Spreads to the U.S. in the 1960s

© 2013 MCT

Source: Federation of American Scientists, U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, BBC
Graphic: Pat Carr

Off The Wall

Taco Bell customers get cash instead of food

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich. (AP)—That was no burrito.

Three people who ordered food at a Taco Bell drive-thru in western Michigan got

something more valuable: \$3,600 in cash.

A Taco Bell employee mistakenly passed the cash to the trio instead of their food Saturday.

The money was returned a short time later.

Kennidi Rue told WZZM-TV and MLive.com that she and two friends thought about keep-

ing the money but decided they would feel guilty if they didn't return it. Grand Rapids police Capt. Jeff Hertel confirmed the incident, saying an officer was

called to assist.

"I thought it was joke," said Rue, 18, of Holland, Mich. "I thought we were on camera. ... The store manager literally just burst out in tears. She was so happy we brought it back."

The money was in a store bag for deposit at a bank. A message

seeking comment was left with Taco Bell.

Rue, boyfriend Grant Kruse, 20, and another friend, Luke Postma, 25, got their meal when they returned the money. Kruse and Postma are National Guard members who were in Grand Rapids for training.

Ohio sinkhole swallows car; driver climbs ladder

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—A north-west Ohio sinkhole has swallowed a car traveling down a street and briefly trapped the driver, who climbed out after authorities gave her a ladder.

Toledo police Sgt. Joe Heffernan says a water main break beneath the road may have caused the sinkhole Wednesday. The hole is estimated to be at least 10 feet deep.

Police say driver Pamela Knox didn't appear hurt but was shaken up and was taken to a hospital as a precaution.

Heffernan says Knox saw the vehicle in front of her start to slip into the hole but drive beyond it. He says Knox couldn't avoid it.

Officials used a crane to pull the car from the hole. Repairs to the road are expected to take days.

This photo provided by the Toledo, Ohio Fire and Rescue Department shows a car at the bottom of a sinkhole caused by a broken water line in Toledo, Ohio on Wednesday, July 3, 2013.



OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Teacher's retirement ends picture-day streak

DALLAS (AP)—A Texas teacher's streak of wearing the same outfit for his school photograph is coming to an end after 40 years with his retirement. It started as an accident. Dale Irby told the *Dallas Morning News* that when he received his photo in his second year he was embarrassed to discover he'd worn the same polyester shirt and brown sweater vest as the first year. His wife dared him to wear it again the third year. Then Irby thought five would be funny. He says, "After five pictures it was like, 'Why stop?'" *Morning News* columnist Steve Blow's account Sunday of Irby's photo streak garnered attention online. The 63-year-old Garland resident retired this year as an elementary school physical education teacher in the Richardson district, north of Dallas.

Eager beaver blamed for New Mexico Internet outage

TAOS, N.M. (AP)—Officials have finally identified the culprit behind a 20-hour Internet and cellphone outage last week in northern New Mexico—an eager beaver. CenturyLink spokesman David Gonzales told The Associated Press on Friday that a hungry beaver chewed through the fiber line last week. He says the biting evidence was discovered by contractors who worked to repair the outage. Officials say more than 1,800 Internet users were affected by the blackout. The number of cellphone users without service during that time is still unknown. CenturyLink owns a fiber-optic cable that runs from Taos to Interstate 25. The cable carries wireless data for many residents around Taos County.

In Loving Memory of our beloved Husband and Father

Marcelino Deleon Guerrero Camacho

Fondly Known as "Uncle Max"

Born on June 6, 1938 and called to his eternal rest on June 28, 2013

Predeceased by:

Parents: Juan Compus Camacho and Soledad Deleon Guerrero Camacho

Parents in Law: Blas Pangelinan Tenorio and Guadalupe Pangelinan Tenorio

Brothers and Sisters & In Laws: Jose DLG Camacho, Rosalia C. and Lorenzo T. Flores, Leonardo DLG. and Rita T. Camacho, Magdalena C. Benavente, Francisco DLG Camacho, Dionicio C. Torres, Roman M. and Dolores T. Benavente, and Jesus P. Mafnas

Survived by:

Spouse: Cecilia Tenorio Camacho

Children: Jeffrey T. and Sonia A. Camacho (Guadalupe and Soledad), Bertha C. and Patrick D. Leon Guerrero (Cylia, Keena, Joaquin, Jose, Patricia [Amari], Maria and Patrick Jr.), Ray T. and Taina B. Camacho (Marcelino, Luke, Noah, Seoni and Taysalyn), James T. and Rosemary C. Camacho (Winona [MJ], Naomi, Marcus and Mathew), Debra T. Camacho (Cecilia), Richard P. and Regina Kautz (Claire, Peter and Adele) - Marlet Legaspi (Richard, David, Thomas, Richelle and Michelle) and Pale Ryan Jimenez

Sister: Margarita C. Sablan

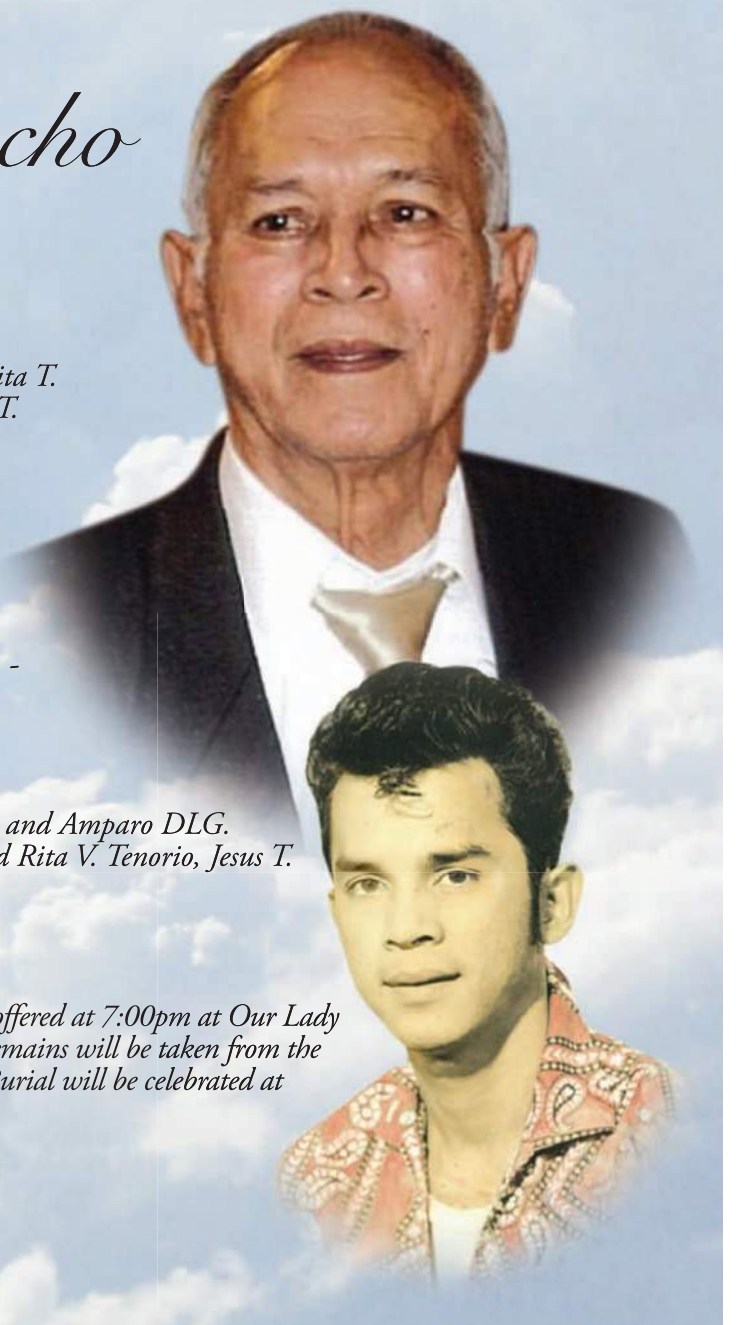
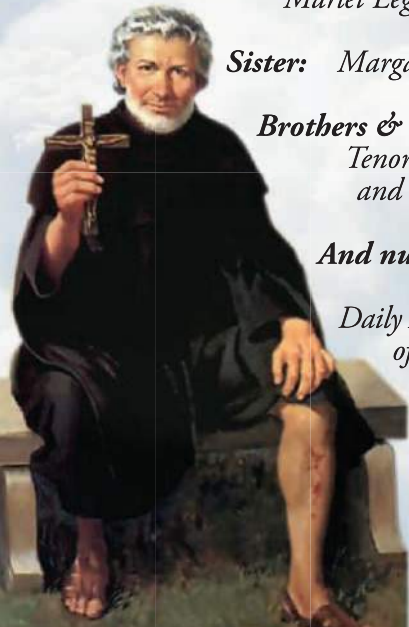
Brothers & Sisters in Law: Luis C. Benavente, Shirley Camacho, Victoria B. Camacho, Jose P. and Amparo DLG. Tenorio, Merced T. Torres, Pedro P. and Sophia P. Tenorio, Susana T. Mafnas, Juan P. and Rita V. Tenorio, Jesus T. and Ramona T. Attao

And numerous nieces and nephews

Daily Mass of Intention is being celebrated each morning at 6:00am and nightly Holy Rosary offered at 7:00pm at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Funeral Service will be held on Saturday, July 6, 2013. His remains will be taken from the CHC Morgue to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30am. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am. Interment Service will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Please join us in prayers

*Dangkulo na si yu'us maase. Thank You.
Cecilia Tenorio Camacho, Children and Family*



Science & Technology

Smartphones: Android, iOS and more

New phones are continually coming out. Which should you buy? Here's a summary of The Associated Press' recent phone reviews, including the latest on Google phones running a pure version of Android.

ANDROID DEVICES

GALAXY S4, SAMSUNG ELECTRONICS CO.

The S4 is an excellent device from a hardware standpoint. Its 5-inch screen is larger than its predecessor, yet it's a tad lighter and smaller. The display is sharp, at 441 pixels per inch. Samsung packed the Android device with a slew of custom features, including new camera tools and the ability to perform tasks by waving a finger over a sensor. Many of the features, however, make the phone more complicated to use. In some cases, custom features work only some of the time. In other cases, you're confronted with too many ways to do similar things. The S4 might be for you if you don't mind spending time customizing it. Otherwise, you must bypass all the gimmicks to get to what otherwise is a good phone. *(Anick Jesdanun, AP Technology Writer)*

HTC ONE, HTC CORP.

The One is a phone that can match Apple's standards of feel and finish. Plastic and metal are joined together so well that you can't tell by feel where one ends and the other starts. The 4.7-inch screen is also quite a sight, its 468 pixels per inch among the best. Two front-facing speakers give you real stereo sound when turned sideways to watch a movie. HTC's camera has a lower resolution than most. Promises of better low-light shots from its larger sensors only partly delivered. Like other Android phone makers, HTC adds confusion by customizing the interface. There are four different "home" screens from which to launch apps, for instance. The One is worth checking out as an alternative to the Galaxy S4 from Samsung, which also adds complication with its custom features. *(Peter Svensson, AP Technology Writer)*

GOOGLE PLAY PHONES

Google has worked with both Samsung Electronics Co. and



AP

In this undated photo provided by Google, the Samsung GS4 Google Play Edition is shown.

HTC Corp. to come out with a "Google Play" edition of the Galaxy S4 and HTC One phones. Instead of using customized software from Samsung and HTC, the Google phones run a pure version of Android, as developed by Google. Essentially, the Google versions of these phones are replicas of the originals, with most of the bells and whistles removed. That's a good thing, as many of those "improvements" added to Android by Samsung and HTC actually make the phones more complex to use. The bad news: The Google edition of the S4 sells for \$649, while Google's HTC One goes for \$599, compared with the \$100 to \$200 that you can typically get the original models for with a two-year agreement. And the phones don't work on Verizon and Sprint's CDMA networks. *(Anick Jesdanun, AP Technology Writer)*

BLACKBERRY DEVICES

BLACKBERRY Q10, RESEARCH IN MOTION LTD.

The Q10 is a successful marriage of the modern touch-

screen smartphone and the iconic BlackBerry keyboard. The interface takes time to get used to, and it doesn't have the simple immediacy of the iPhone. But once you learn it, you can positively zip between tasks. The downside to the new BlackBerry 10 operating system is its relative dearth of third-party software. In addition, the keyboard eats up space that could be devoted to a bigger screen, leaving the Q10 with a square, 3.1-inch screen. Nonetheless, the Q10 is likely to be attractive to the BlackBerry faithful, and it de-

serves serious consideration from Android and iPhone users as well. *(Peter Svensson, AP Technology Writer)*

BLACKBERRY Z10, RESEARCH IN MOTION LTD.

The Z10 is the first phone to run RIM's new BlackBerry 10 operating system and comes across as a very good stab at regaining at least some of the cachet of the BlackBerry. But the Z10 looks like every other smartphone on the shelf. It's a flat black slab with a touch screen, measuring 4.2 inches.

Only once you turn it on do the differences become more evident. Older BlackBerrys are great communications devices, but are poor at multimedia and at running third-party apps, something the iPhone excels at. The new BlackBerry 10 software is a serious attempt at marrying these two feature sets. *(Peter Svensson, AP Technology Writer)*

IOS DEVICE

IPHONE 5, APPLE INC.

The iPhone 5 is the biggest

overhaul to the line since the release of the 3G in 2008. Compared with other high-end smartphones, however, it's more of a catch-up move. The 4-inch screen is larger than previous iPhones, but smaller than many Android devices. The iPhone now works with 4G LTE cellular networks, something many Android devices already did. The iPhone 5 doesn't break much new ground, but it supports the things that really set the iPhone apart: the slick, reliable operating system and the multitude of high-quality, third-party applications. Released in September, the iPhone 5 is getting old. But don't expect a new model until at least this fall.

In Celebration of His New Life †Joaquin Ito Pangelinan

better known as "Mitch"

was called to his eternal rest on
Friday, June 28, 2013, at the age of 71

In his new life, Mitch will be reunited with his:

Father: Francisco Sablan Pangelinan
Mother: Dolores Ito Pangelinan
Father-in-law: Gregorio Camacho Cabrera
Godmother: Matilde S. Tudela
Brothers: Felix Francisco I. Pangelinan & Esteban I. Pangelinan
Brothers-in-law: Dr. Isamu J. Abraham, Estevan I. Kileleman & Raymond S. Camacho
Daughter: Verena Marie Tudela Cabrera
Daughter-in-law: Rosita Terlaje Pangelinan
Nephew: Carlos Patrick Pangelinan Camacho

Mitch's memories will live in the hearts of his:

Wife and Best Friend: Carmen Tudela Cabrera-Pangelinan
Children: Mark Dave S. Pangelinan (Reynee, Sabrina, Mark Jr., Regina)
Michael S. / Vivian Pangelinan (Colin)
Zarah P. / Clement Bermudes (Frannie, CJ, Tia)
Ian S. / Jolyn Pangelinan (Zoe, Ian Jr.)
Gina P. / Seth Sablan (Austin, Leila, Avea)
Jacqueena "Tomiko" Cabrera Pangelinan
Brenna T. Cabrera / Ramon G. Villagomez II (Ramon III)

Siblings: Delgadina P. Zabetakis/Nick, Felicitas "Tee" P. Abraham, Joseph I. Pangelinan/Maria "Frica", Lourdes "Winnie" P. Camacho/Carlos, Kenneth I. Pangelinan

Siblings-in-law: Asuncion "Connie" P. Pangelinan, Linda T. Cabrera, Isidoro T. / Susana C. Cabrera, Daria C. / David Cing, Millan C. / Elroy Jr. Hill, Oliva C. / Thomas M. Deleon Guerrero, Olinka C. / Ghazanfar Chaudhry, Noel T. Cabrera / Carmen, Anthony T. Cabrera / Riza, Gloria C. Reyes, Rita T. Cabrera, Eleonita C. Camacho, Eloy T. Cabrera

Mother-in-law: Escolastica Tudela Cabrera

Godfather: Jose B. Tudela

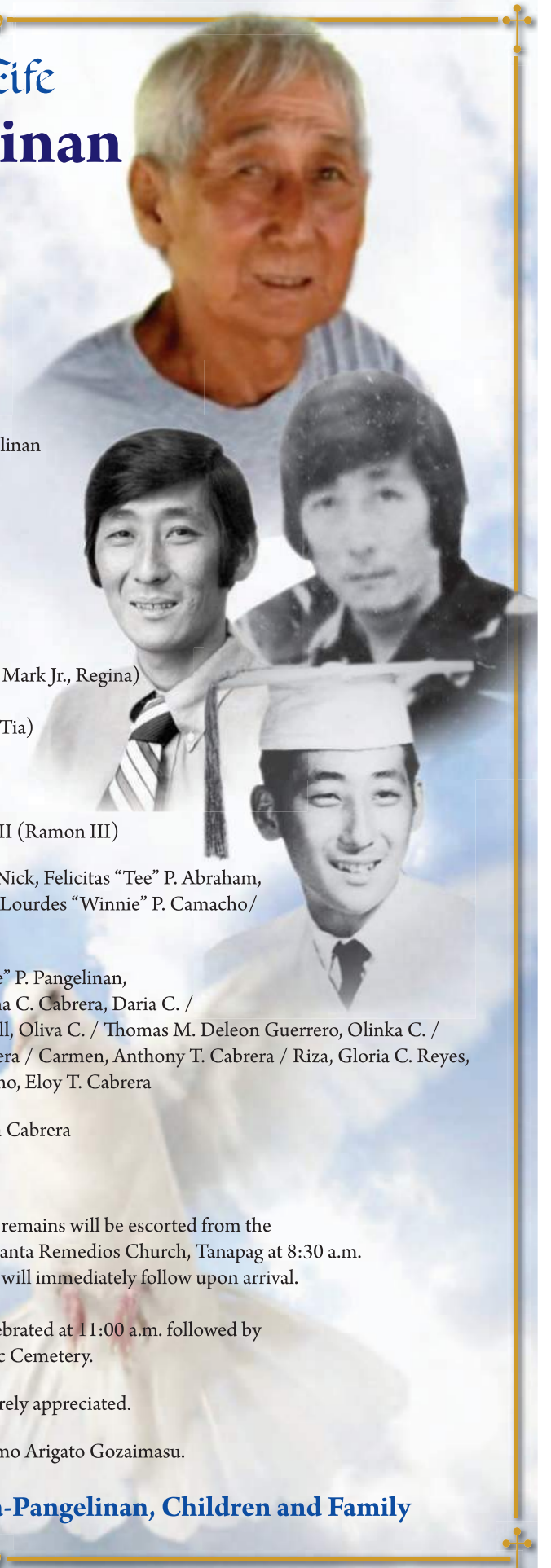
On **Saturday, July 6, 2013**, Mitch's remains will be escorted from the Commonwealth Health Center to Santa Remedios Church, Tanapag at 8:30 a.m. Responso Service and Holy Rosary will immediately follow upon arrival.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00 a.m. followed by Interment Service at Tanapag Public Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are sincerely appreciated.

Thank You, Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Domo Arigato Gozaimasu.

Carmen Tudela Cabrera-Pangelinan, Children and Family



Life & Style

Bieber's mom: Conversations with son are private

NEW YORK (AP)—Justin Bieber's mom, Pattie Mallette, has left out some of the rougher details of her early life for a new teen edition of her memoir, "Nowhere But Up."

Out Tuesday from the inspirational publisher Revell, the book includes advice, statistics and hotline numbers for young people on depression, pregnancy, bullying and unwanted sexual advances.

Mallette, who gave birth to Bieber at age 18, faced all of those problems and more growing up in Canada. She now lives in Los Angeles and recently shared her story with young people in the Watts projects, hoping her struggles and turn to Christianity can offer hope.

"There was this one young man. He was probably late teens, early 20s. He said, 'You know, who knew that your story could relate so much with me and that I would have so many similarities with the things that you went

through,'" Mallette recalled in a telephone interview from Los Angeles. "I mean, his sister's been shot, but he's been through so many similar emotions and so many similar circumstances."

For Mallette, those circumstances began with the painful divorce of her parents when she was 2. Sex abuse at the hands of a series of tormenters began at 3. She was left with a feeling of worthlessness that led her to drinking, drugging and a suicide attempt by age 17.

"A lot of teenagers are feeling really discouraged at their circumstances," said Mallette, whose memoir co-written with A.J. Gregory came out last year.

And what of her own son? Mallette was tightlipped about Bieber's lower moments of late.



In this Nov. 18, 2012 file photo, Justin Bieber, right, kisses his mother Pattie Mallette at the 40th Anniversary American Music Awards in Los Angeles.

There have been reports of speeding in his Calabasas, Calif., neighborhood, run-ins with paparazzi, boos at the Billboard Awards and a pet monkey relinquished in Germany.

While she talks to her son regularly, Mallette said Wednesday he prefers she not speak publicly about recent controversies.

"He wants me to continue to respect his boundaries and my relationship with him," Mallette said. "Everybody has their own opinion and everybody wants to sensationalize everything."

Parenting a teen isn't easy for anybody, let alone a pop star with millions of dedicated fans and followers on Twitter and Instagram.

"You have to sort of let them make some of their own decisions," she said. "Me, personally, I would love to be with him all the time and to be able to ground him and deal with his problems and do all of that stuff, but at some point the parenting style changes. I hope to still be a respected voice in his ear."

Horror films equal happiness for actor Elijah Wood



NEW YORK (AP)—To hear Elijah Wood talk about the 1978 slasher film "Halloween," he sounds, well, giddy.

"I've seen it so many times," he said in a recent interview. "The feeling that I get from the movie? It's almost like the feeling one would get from watching a Christmas movie. It made me feel happy! Like, I don't know if it's a sense of nostalgia I attach to the film? Maybe I've seen it so many

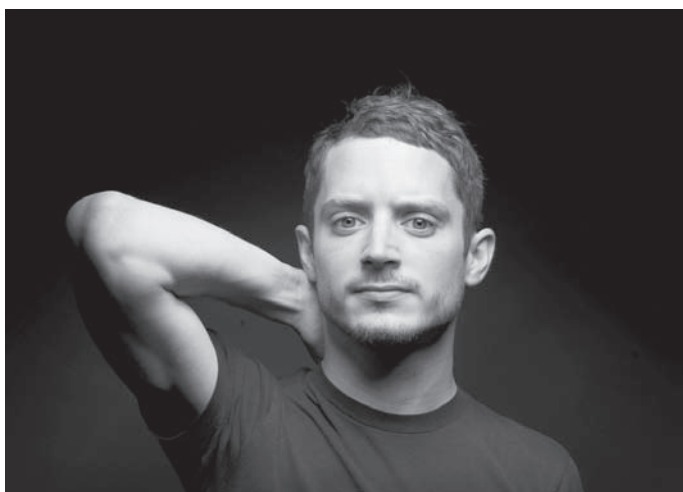
times it feels like, you know, an old familiar record or something. But I put it on and I feel joy watching that film."

Such is the reaction of a true lover of the horror genre. The 32-year-old actor, known for "The Lord of the Rings" trilogy and his FX TV series "Wilfred" and in the music world as a popular DJ, has an encyclopedic knowledge of scary movies, with a starring role in the new film "Maniac" and his own fledgling horror production company.

Wood plays a serial killer in "Maniac," a film told entirely from his point of view—you see Wood only in his reflections or in his hands as they cross in front of the camera.

In a recent interview, Wood said he found the experience to be extremely technical but also an exciting, collaborative effort.

"You go into (shooting from a point of view aspect) thinking, 'It's gonna be easy. It's a single shot but you're under such intense parameters that every



In this June 24, 2011 file photo, Elijah Wood poses for a portrait in New York. Wood stars in the new FX series "Wilfred."

scene became a puzzle."

Wood's new production company The Woodshed Horror Company has three movies in the works. Its first film picked up for distribution, "Toad Road", was discovered at the horror film festival Nightmare City (which The Woodshed helped present.) It will hit theaters in October.

AP: Where did this love of

the horror genre come from?

Wood: I think I've always been relatively fearless, so they never really scared me.

AP: What was the first horror film you ever saw?

Wood: I saw my first horror film when I was 5. It was a movie called "Truth or Dare: A Critical Madness," and it was a VHS like direct-to-video horror film. Part of the reason I was excited

about watching it, I remember, was I knew that I wasn't supposed to. So that of course as a child you do all the things that you know is not... like it's suddenly more exciting. But I love the movie.

AP: Do you have a favorite villain?

Wood: I love Mike Meyers. He didn't have a long shelf-life because I didn't love all the iterations of that character. He's a great rendering of the boogey man. Jack Nicholson's character in "The Shining" is extraordinary. I tend to find characters from a more rooted, real place to be more frightening and unsettling. What happens to Reagan in "The Exorcist" I love and find horrifyingly scary. Freddy Kruger is more fun. He becomes a jokester which is fun to watch. That's another angle with horror.

AP: Your TV series "Wilfred" is now in its third season (airing Thursdays at 10 p.m. on FX.) Do you have a theory as to why your character Ryan sees this dog as a man in a dog suit?

Wood: My feeling is that he's

a manifestation of his psyche as a result of having reached an impasse mentally in his life. It's almost like something has snapped and it's a part of his psyche that was lying dormant that is now kind of pushing him to live kind of beyond the confines that he's somehow created for himself or maybe self-imposed, maybe imposed by others in his life.

AP: Ryan addresses his confusion over seeing Wilfred on the series but do you think there will ever be a big reveal about that?

Wood: I don't think there should be, personally. I think that's part of the magic of the show. Wilfred is Wilfred and I think people can have their own ideas as to what Wilfred is and why. But, I think if you kind of definitely answer that, even at the end. Like let's say it ends in two or three more seasons or whatever and the end is the answer, I think that misses the point. I think the point is in the searching and it's in the relationship and it's in what's gained in that relationship.

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Jackson

Rapper 50 Cent charged with kicking ex-girlfriend

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Rapper and actor 50 Cent was charged this week with attacking his ex-girlfriend and trashing her Los Angeles condo, city attorney Mike Feuer said Wednesday.

The 37-year-old "In da Club" singer, whose real name is Curtis Jackson, was charged with domestic violence and four counts of vandalism in papers filed Monday. If convicted, he faces up to five years in jail and \$46,000 in fines.

A representative for Jackson

did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Jackson had already left when officers arrived June 23 at a Toluca Lake condo belonging to a woman who had a baby with him, police said.

During an argument, the woman told police, Jackson began destroying her property before she locked herself into her bedroom. The woman said Jackson kicked open the bedroom door and kicked her, causing injury.

Police said they estimated about \$7,100 in damage to the woman's home. They observed many broken items in the ransacked and clothes-strewn condo, including chandeliers, furniture and a television.

The woman told police she had been in a three-year relationship with Jackson.

"Regardless of perceived celebrity or notoriety, domestic violence is a serious crime and alleged perpetrators will be prosecuted to the fullest ex-

tent of the law by this office," Feuer said.

The Queens-reared rapper has referenced drug-dealing and violence in many songs, and is known for having survived nine gunshots in an attempted assassination.

Jackson has also worked as an actor in recent years. He starred in an autobiographical account of his life as a drug dealer in "Get Rich or Die Tryin'."

Jackson is due for arraignment July 22.

Gandolfini leaves bulk of \$70M estate to children

NEW YORK (AP)—James Gandolfini left the bulk of his estimated \$70 million estate to his 13-year-old son and infant daughter.

The late star of HBO's "The Sopranos" left millions of dollars to his wife and relatives.

The *New York Post* reports a will dated Dec. 19 was filed Tuesday in Manhattan Surrogate's Court.

Gandolfini's son, Michael, is to get the largest chunk through a trust set aside for him until he turns 21. He'll split his father's Italian property with 8-month-



old half-sister Liliana when she turns 25.

The newspaper says the remainder of Gandolfini's estate will be split among his wife, sisters and daughter.

Gandolfini grew up in Westwood, N.J. He died last month. He left \$200,000 each to his personal assistant and secretary.

The will is the first and primary filing of his estate; more filings are expected.

This April 11, 2011 file photo shows actor James Gandolfini in Beverly Hills, Calif. AP

Obama to award arts, humanities medals to 2 dozen

WASHINGTON (AP)—Musician Herb Alpert, sportswriter Frank Deford and filmmaker George Lucas are among 23 people and an organization chosen to receive national medals for their contributions in the fields of the arts and humanities.

President Barack Obama will award the medals next Wednesday during a ceremony in the East Room of the White House.

Playwright Tony Kushner, musician Renee Fleming and the Washington Performing

Arts Society have also been selected to receive a National Medal of Arts.

Other recipients of the National Humanities Medal in-

clude author Joan Didion and actress Anna Deavere Smith, along with Kay Ryan, a former poet laureate of the U.S., and Robert B. Silvers, editor and

co-founder of The New York Review of Books.

A total of 23 individuals and one organization will be recognized.

British royal couple given Finnish baby box



This photo taken on Aug. 15, 2012 shows the contents of the Finnish baby box, in Helsinki, Finland. AP

HELSINKI (AP)—A future British king or queen might spend some early hours sleeping in a cardboard box—if a maternity package donated by Finland's social security service proves a success.

The Nordic country has given a baby box to Prince William and former Catherine Middle-

ton, who are expecting their first baby in mid-July.

The brightly colored cardboard box doubles as a cot, complete with mattress and sheets, and contains numerous baby items including a sleeping bag, jump suits, socks, pants, hats, bonnets and diapers. Maternity packages have been

given to expectant mothers in Finland since 1938.

A spokesperson for the royal couple at Kensington Palace said Wednesday that the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge were "delighted" by their baby box, and that "it was a very thoughtful gesture and we're very grateful for it."

Kerry Washington weds pro athlete Nnamdi Asomugha

LOS ANGELES (AP)—No "Scandal" here: Kerry Washington is a newlywed.

The star of TV's "Scandal" married professional football player Nnamdi Asomugha (NAHM'-dee AH'-suhm-wah) last week in Hailey, Idaho.

E! reported the nuptials Wednesday and posted a copy of the couple's marriage license online. The Blaine County recorder's office in Hailey confirmed the June 24 filing to The Associated Press.

The 36-year-old actress and 31-year-old athlete were married the same day. Washington's parents served as official witnesses, while one of Asomugha's relatives performed the ceremony.

Asomugha is a cornerback with the San Francisco 49ers.



This May 16, 2013 photo shows actress Kerry Washington at the Academy of Television Art and Sciences' event in North Hollywood, Calif. AP

He previously played for the Oakland Raiders and Philadelphia Eagles.

Besides starring in the ABC

political thriller, Washington's other recent credits include the films "Peeples" and "Django Unchained."

Couple shies from sharing facts behind twins' birth

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I are the proud parents of beautiful 4-year-old twins. After years of infertility, we found out that my husband has a low sperm count. Additionally, I have very few eggs. Ultimately, we conceived our miracles with IVF and the help of a sperm donor.

We do not want to keep this a secret from our children. We want them to eventually know, understand and be proud of the journey it took to bring them into this world. However, my husband and I are very private people. We understand that once the dialogue with our children begins, others will naturally find out.

My husband still feels very uncomfortable discussing his condition. How do we explain to our children, friends and family without becoming the focus of gossip and whispers?

PROUD PARENTS

DEAR PROUD PARENTS: Infertility among couples is no longer a deep, dark or shameful secret, and the fact that you needed help to have your children shouldn't generate gossip or whispers because, frankly, it isn't shocking or titillating anymore.

When your children are old enough to be told the facts of life, they can be told that they were conceived through in vitro fertilization. They do not have to be told every detail all at once. When they are older, they may ask questions about why it was necessary—and when they do, their questions should be answered honestly and in an age-appropriate manner.

DEAR ABBY: Last year I started dating the man I thought I would someday marry. We connected instantly and had a deep love for each other. We argued during most of our relationship, but strangely, never stopped feeling the way we did at the start. Our connection was undeniable and our love endless.

One night we got into a heated argument over "inappropriate" emails between him and an ex. The argument escalated and I was arrested. Worse than being in trouble with the law for the first time in my life was losing my other half.

Most people would say, "Walk away; you never belonged together." But I don't agree. I have never been in a relationship that had such highs and lows. I miss him and miss sharing my life with him.

CONFUSED AND HEARTBROKEN

DEAR CONFUSED AND HEARTBROKEN: Whether you agree with "most people" or not, the most important person—the man you were involved with—no longer wants to be involved with you. As much as you cared for him, if he was sending "inappropriate" emails to an ex, it appears he was not equally devoted to you. The coup de grace was when you became so violent you were jailed.

You may miss what you thought you had with him, but what you need now is a therapist who can help you understand what a healthy relationship is all about, because this wasn't one. It's time to accept that this drama is over, because unless you do, you could be labeled a stalker and find yourself in even more trouble.

DEAR ABBY: I met this guy recently and I guess he's good-looking enough, but the thing is I really like his teeth. Like really, really like them for some reason. They're just so perfect, and I like the shape and everything.

The thing is, I've never actually paid that much attention to anyone else's teeth, just his. So does this count as a fetish or not?

AM I WEIRD?

DEAR AM I: No. If the only thing that attracted you about EVERY man you met was his teeth, you might have a tooth fetish. But because it's only this one set of choppers that turn you on, I wouldn't call that a fetish.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Judge rejects Shakira ex's plea to access account

NEW YORK (AP)—A judge in Geneva has rejected an application from Shakira's ex-boyfriend seeking rights to one of her bank accounts.

Antonio de La Rua claims he should have access to one of Shakira's accounts because it holds most of the assets from their business partnership.

In documents dated June 17 and obtained by The Associated Press, the judge said that Shakira is the sole owner of the account.

De La Rua has worked as one of Shakira's business advisers. He said he and Shakira established an oral agreement to work professionally following their romantic split in 2011.

The judge said that de La Rua does not have enough evidence to prove the two reached a professional agreement and that there are no written agreements.

De La Rua has been waging an international fight against the Colombian singer, saying he shaped the "Shakira brand." He has filed lawsuits in New York and Los Angeles.

De La Rua is the son of former Argentine President Fernando de la Rúa. He dated Shakira, whose songs include "Hips Don't Lie," for more than a decade and worked on some of her business deals.

Lawyers for de La Rua's didn't immediately respond to emails seeking comment Wednesday.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

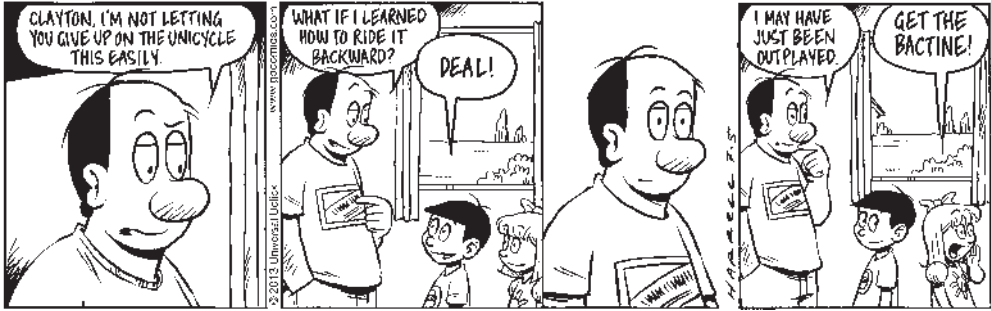


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Popular pet

4 Hot tub

7 Inundated

12 Past

13 Matter-horn, e.g.

14 Antiflood structure

15 Burst

16 1989 Michener novel

18 Mound stat

19 "— Landing"

20 Bronx cheer

22 Away from WSW

23 Helps

27 "Guinness Book" suffix

29 1980s hairstyle

31 Pueblo material

34 Thin and light

35 Hardy companion

37 Glutton

38 Vega's constellation

39 Big bother

41 Egg container?

45 Pedro's pal

47 Doo follower

48 Pseudo-chocolate source

52 Anger

53 Spin

54 Wilde-beest

55 Photog's need

56 Domestic female

57 CIA forerunner

58 Definite article

2 Old market-place

3 November birthstone

4 Bag

5 Pluto, formerly

6 Griller's garb

7 Priestly robes

8 Symbol of intrigue

9 Rd.

10 Vast expanse

11 Coop dweller

17 Thing

21 Zoo equine

23 Straighten

24 Under the weather

25 Rep.'s rival

26 Unkempt home

28 Witness

30 Venusian vessel?

31 With 32-Down, from dawn to dusk

32 See 31-Down

33 "— American Cousin"

36 Easter entree

37 Navajo homes

40 San —

42 Decree

43 Jessica Parker or Michelle Gellar

44 Motif

45 With skill

46 Responsibility

48 1/20 ton (Abbr.)

49 "Eureka!"

50 Cage piece

51 2013 Derby winner

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterdays answer 7-5

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Jason Dolley, 22; Dave Haywood, 31; Edie Falco, 50; Huey Lewis, 63.

Happy Birthday: Question anything and anyone that can alter your life. You are best to follow your gut feeling and not assume anything that has not been verified. Spend more time enjoying a hobby, your children or your lover to help prevent you from overreacting. Don't worry if you do things differently than others. Your uniqueness will attract positive attention. Your numbers are 4, 9, 14, 24, 33, 37, 49.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Reflect on the past, and it will be easier to deal with the present. Stabilize your personal life and the relationships that mean a lot to you, and let go of what is no longer working. Improvements will bring positive results. ****

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Learn all you can and take an open-minded approach to discussions. Embracing different cultures or ways of doing things will help you become more diverse with what you have to offer. Reconnecting with someone will lead to disappointment. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Deception and disillusion are apparent. Don't let your emotions lead you in the wrong direction. You need to be reasonable regarding your expectations. Focus on work. Put your own unique touch into whatever you do and you will be successful. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Put greater emphasis on getting things done instead of making a big deal out of nothing. You'll have a tendency to overdo it no matter what it is, so

keep moderation in mind. Spirituality or a change of philosophy will lead to a better lifestyle. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Keep a secret to avoid an abrupt change in your plans. You are best to consider all consequences before you step into something that may or may not be in your best interest. Guard your assets as well as your physical wellness. ****

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Take your time to respond. Jumping into something too quickly will lead to discord. Put more thought into how you can accomplish the most. Your intuition will guide you. A change in a relationship is likely to be costly. Cut your losses. **

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A colleague or peer will use any information you share against you when it comes to advancement. Keep your thoughts to yourself and do the best job possible. How you handle others will play into who gets ahead and who doesn't. *****

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let love stand between you and your professional goals or educational pursuits. Expand your interests and network with people you feel can further your career. A change at home should help motivate you to do more personally and professionally. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): A partnership will inspire you to try harder and make positive changes to the way you live your life. Make sure that your motives are good and that emotional blackmail is not being used against you. Follow your heart. ***

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Expect to face opposition. Prepare to have your

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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facts ready to support your ideas and plans for the future. Don't fold under pressure or allow anyone to take advantage of you. A change of heart can lead to a new beginning. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Put more effort into physical activities or challenges that make you think about the future. Engage in social events that enhance relationships and bring you closer to a stable and secure future. Visit with people from your past. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): An emotional matter will arise that must be dealt with before you will be able to move forward. Honest, direct communication is the only way to proceed. Be prepared to walk away from a situation that is not healthy. **

Birthday Baby: You are assertive and confident. You are unique and insightful.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, eugenialast.com/blog/ for Eugenia's blog and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

7/05

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★

7/04

WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORDS. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

IT'S TIME FOR A PAR-TAY! Solution: 8 letters

E E T C E M U T S O C B T P P
S Y G N I G N I S U M A L U S
I L T R E S A I R C E A B H T
R I S I U M U T A R Y S P O F
P M S Y N L E M T R N L S S I
R A E R T R P T A O A A K T G
U F R T E I E S I N C U N O N
S S D F N M R T N C H G I G I
S O R G O E A O A D X H R E R
D T C A V R I E R R P E D T E
G A N I B S M H R O F U O H H
E A N E A A S A U T S A O E T
K N L C V L S P L C S Y F R A
A E C A E E C H I P S E M A G
C O C K T A I L S D N E I R F

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Yesterday's Answer: Asparagus

To purchase THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, Volume 26, 27, 30 or 31, call 1-800-642-6480. Order on line at wonderword.universallclick.com. (Contains 43 puzzles.)

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99c per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

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Celtics hire Butler's Brad Stevens as coach



BOSTON (AP)—Butler's historic Hinkle Fieldhouse couldn't compete with the Boston Garden and all those NBA championship banners hanging from its rafters.

The Boston Celtics hired Brad Stevens away from the school he led to back-to-back NCAA title games, putting the 36-year-old coach in charge of their brand new rebuilding effort on Wednesday. Stevens had turned down offers from bigger college programs, but couldn't resist the lure of the NBA's most-decorated franchise.

"There are some brands in sports, and in the world of basketball the Celtics are one of those," Butler athletic director Barry Collier said in an on-campus news conference on Wednesday night.

With aging stars Kevin Garnett and Paul Pierce on their way to the Brooklyn Nets, and Doc Rivers already coaching the Los Angeles Clippers, the Celtics have been trying to get younger. In Stevens, they have a mentor who is younger than Garnett and wasn't yet born when Bill Russell won his 11th NBA championship in 1969—or even when John Havlicek added two more in the 1970s.

It's the first time the Celtics have hired a college coach since Rick Pitino in 1997 and their first coach with no NBA experience of any kind since Alvin "Doggie" Julian, who was hired in 1948 and gave way to Red Auerbach two years later.

"Though he is young, I see Brad as a great leader who leads with impeccable character and a strong work ethic," Celtics general manager Danny Ainge said in a release. "His teams always play hard and execute on both ends of the court. Brad is a coach who has already enjoyed lots of success, and I look forward to working with him towards Banner 18."

The Celtics gave Stevens a six-year deal worth about \$22 million, according to a basketball official with knowledge of the deal who spoke on the condition of anonymity because the terms were not public. Ainge met with Stevens at his home in the Indianapolis area along with Celtics owners Wyc Grousbeck and Steve Pagliuca and worked out the deal Wednesday morning.

"It's a wonderful opportunity with a historic franchise," Butler President James M. Danko said. "We have done everything we possibly can to keep him. Brad is a very bright, very articulate, and a wonderful, wonderful person who's handled this as well as he's handled everything else you've seen him do."

Since taking Butler of the mid-major Horizon League to the national championship game in 2010 and again in '11, Stevens had been courted by Illinois and UCLA, among oth-



In this March 22, 2013 file photo, Butler coach Brad Stevens listens to a question during a news conference at the NCAA college basketball tournament in Lexington, Ky.

ers. Butler just joined the Big East, but Stevens won't be going with them.

"I didn't treat it as inevitable (that he would leave)," said Collier, who noted that the school had signed Stevens through 2025. "I looked at it like every year Brad was our coach, it was another good year for Butler."

Stevens spent seven years as a Butler assistant and the last six years as the head coach, compiling a career winning percentage of .772. He never won fewer than 22 games in a season, and the Bulldogs went 33-5 in 2009-10.

Stevens, who didn't attend the news conference, takes over

a team that is rebuilding just three seasons removed from an appearance in the NBA Finals; the Celtics won their unprecedented 17th championship in 2008. But with Garnett and Pierce showing signs of slowing down in this year's playoffs, when Boston was eliminated by the New York Knicks

in the first round, Ainge is trying to get younger.

He allowed Rivers to leave for the Clippers, extracting a first-round draft choice in return. Amid last week's NBA draft, the Celtics and Nets agreed to a deal that would send Garnett and Pierce to Brooklyn in exchange for a package of

players along with three first-round draft picks.

In all, the Celtics have nine first-rounders in the next five years, along with a dynamic but temperamental point guard in Rajon Rondo and talented swingman Jeff Green.

Now, Stevens will be the one to work with those young players.

"Our family is thrilled for the opportunity given to us by the leadership of the Boston Celtics, but it is emotional to leave a place that we have called home for the past 13 years," Stevens said in a release issued by the university. "We truly love Butler University and Indianapolis, and are very thankful to have had the opportunity to celebrate so many wonderful things together."

At Butler, Stevens was 166-49—the most wins for any Division I coach in the first six years of his career. In 2009-10, the Bulldogs posted the Horizon League's first 18-0 conference record, a 25-game winning streak and an appearance in the NCAA title game, where they lost to Duke 61-59 when a last-second, half-court shot bounced off the backboard and rim.

"Brad has given his talent to our university with exceptional generosity, integrity, and humility," Danko said, calling Stevens "a beloved member of our community."

"We have done everything we can to keep Brad here at Butler; however, the Celtics team has offered Brad and his family a unique opportunity with which no university can compete."

Murray in Wimbledon SFs, with Djokovic, del Potro



LONDON (AP)—They sighed when Andy Murray faulted.

They stood and roared when he hit winners.

And when Murray dropped the first two sets of his Wimbledon quarterfinal Wednesday, the 15,000 Centre Court spectators were suddenly so silent that birds could be heard chirping.

By the time his five-set comeback was nearly complete, more than two hours later, the fans were greeting each point that went Murray's way with celebrations of the sort normally reserved for a championship. It's been 77 years since a British man won the country's Grand Slam tennis tournament, and thanks to the second-seeded Murray's 4-6, 3-6, 6-1, 6-4, 7-5 victory over 54th-ranked Fernando Verdasco, the locals still can hold out hope the wait will end Sunday.

First things first, of course. Murray, who is from Scotland, will play in the semifinals at the All England Club for the fifth consecutive year Friday, facing No. 24 Jerzy Janowicz of Poland. The other semifinal is No. 1 Novak Djokovic of Serbia

against No. 8 Juan Martin del Potro of Argentina.

There is no doubt who will be the recipient of the most boisterous support.

"Great atmosphere at the end of the match. ... I love it when it's like that. It was extremely noisy," said Murray, who lost last year's Wimbledon final to Roger Federer. "They were right into it, pretty much every single point."

Murray needed to summon some pretty strong tennis, and plenty of grit, for his seventh career victory after facing a two-set deficit. He never panicked—no matter what all of his self-admonishing muttering and gesticulating looked like—and eventually figured out how to handle Verdasco's 130 mph serves and high-risk, high-reward style.

Murray's mother, British Fed Cup captain Judy Murray, called the match "one of the toughest to sit through."

"When you play more and more matches, and gain more experience, you understand how to turn matches around and how to change the momentum of games," Murray said. "Maybe when I was younger, I could

have lost that match. But I think I've learnt how to come back from tough situations more as I got older."

He's only 26, but he truly has matured as a player over the past 12 months. After shedding tears following the 2012 Wimbledon final, Murray returned to the same spot four weeks later and beat Federer to win a gold medal at the London Olympics. Then, at the U.S. Open in September, he defeated Djokovic to win his first Grand Slam title.

Asked if his triumph in Flushing Meadows lessened the pressure to succeed at home, Murray said: "It's pretty much the same. Not a whole lot's changed."

Murray tries to avoid reading the coverage about him, but he can't help noticing newspapers left around the locker room.

Even British Prime Minister David Cameron took an interest, writing Wednesday morning on Twitter: "The sky over Downing St a little grey right now. Let's hope it clears up for (at)Andy-Murray to win at (hash)Wimbledon. Best of luck Andy."

Wednesday's other quarterfinals lasted a mere three sets each and the most compelling

segments came at the very beginning of 2009 U.S. Open champion del Potro's 6-2, 6-4, 7-6 (5) win against No. 4 David Ferrer, and the very end of Janowicz's 7-5, 6-4, 6-4 victory over 130th-ranked Lukasz Kubot in the first Grand Slam match between two men from Poland.

Janowicz, 22, reached his first major semifinal - the first for a man from his country - by pounding serves at a tournament-high 140 mph, compiling 30 aces, and saving all six break points he faced. When it finished, Kubot walked around the net to Janowicz's side of the court and the pair of Davis Cup teammates and good pals enveloped each other in a warm embrace. Then they yanked their white shirts off and exchanged them, the way soccer players trade jerseys after games.

Janowicz sat in his sideline chair, covered his face and sobbed.

"It's not easy to control all of the feelings inside my body," he said. "I was never in (a major) quarterfinal before. I never had a chance to be in (the) semifinal of a Grand Slam. I never played against Lukasz before."

Honest perhaps to a fault,

Janowicz gave a succinct answer when asked for his thoughts about the semifinal between Djokovic vs. del Potro: "I don't care."

On the fifth point the 6-foot-6 del Potro played Wednesday, his left foot slid out from under him as he sprinted to reach a ball. Del Potro's heavily wrapped left knee, which he hyperextended on a face-first tumble in the third round, slackened, then bent backward.

"Really painful," del Potro said. "I was scared."

He fell to the turf and rolled over twice, then stayed down until a trainer came out to check on him and dispense anti-inflammatory medicine.

"Magic pills," del Potro called them.

After a 10-minute break, he resumed playing—and playing quite well.

He hasn't lost a set en route to his first Wimbledon semifinal. Djokovic also has won all 15 sets he's played, including in a 7-6 (5), 6-4, 6-3 victory over No. 7 Tomas Berdych to reach a 13th consecutive Grand Slam semifinal, the second-longest streak in men's tennis history behind Roger Federer's 23.

Locke wins 8th straight, Pirates beat Phillies, 6-5



PITTSBURGH
(AP)—Jeff

Locke ran his winning streak to eight games, Pedro Alvarez hit a three-run homer and the Pittsburgh Pirates hung on to beat the Philadelphia Phillies 6-5 Wednesday night.

Locke (8-1) was scored upon for the first time in four home starts but extended his unbeaten streak to 16 outings. Locke, who hasn't lost since his first start of the season, allowed two earned runs on seven hits and three walks over 5 2-3 innings.

The Pirates took the lead with a four-run fifth punctuated by Alvarez's 21st home run.

Andrew McCutchen reached base five times, scoring twice for the Pirates (52-31), who have the majors' best record and had a nine-game winning streak snapped in the series opener Tuesday.

Delmon Young and Domonic Brown each had three hits for the Phillies, who have lost four of six.

Brown's two-run homer with two outs in the ninth pulled the Phillies within one, but Jason Grilli stuck out Young to seal his NL-best 28th save.

John Lannan (1-3) was tagged for four runs on 11 hits and three walks in five innings.

Marlins 6, Braves 3

In Atlanta, Ricky Nolasco tossed seven strong innings amid persistent trade rumors, Justin Ruggiano hit a three-run homer and Miami beat Atlanta.

Marlins manager Mike Redmond said before the game that Nolasco has not been affected by trade speculation and the right-hander supported that claim by giving up only two runs on six hits.

Nolasco (5-8) had no walks with seven strikeouts, giving him 1,001 for his career.

The Braves led 2-0 before Ruggiano's homer off Mike Minor (8-4) in the fifth. Miami added a run in the sixth when Placido Polanco singled and scored on Adeiny Hechavarria's double. Jeff Mathis added a two-run double in the eighth.

Diamondbacks 5, Mets 3

In New York, Randall Delgado outpitched Matt Harvey for his first major league win in more than a year and Arizona snapped a five-game skid with a victory over New York.

Cody Ross hit a three-run homer off Harvey to put Arizona ahead, and Delgado struck out a career-high nine in seven innings to give the NL West leaders their first victory by a starting pitcher since Wade Miley beat St. Louis on June 5.

Diamondbacks starters went 0-11 over the next 24 games until Delgado (1-2) held New York in check for his first win since June 6, 2012, with Atlanta at Miami.

Harvey (7-2) was charged with nine hits and a season-high



Pittsburgh Pirates' Pedro Alvarez (24) celebrates as he returns to the dugout with teammate Russell Martin (55) who also scored on his three-run home run off Philadelphia Phillies starting pitcher John Lannan during the fifth inning of a baseball game in Pittsburgh, Wednesday, July 3, 2013.

five runs in six-plus innings.

Reds 3, Giants 2, 11 innings

In Cincinnati, Shin-Soo Choo's two-out single in the 11th inning drove in Todd Frazier from second base, lifting Cincinnati over San Francisco.

Frazier walked to lead off the 11th against Javier Lopez (1-1) and went to second on Chris Heisey's sacrifice. After Devin Mesoraco was intentionally walked, Ryan Hanigan popped out before Choo gave the Reds three straight wins for the first time since June 10-12 against the Cubs.

J.J. Hoover (2-5), Cincinnati's seventh pitcher of the game, struck out four batters in two innings for the win.

The spiraling Giants have lost nine of their last 10 games.

Brewers 4, Nationals 1

In Washington, Kyle Lohse tossed eight sharp innings on short rest and Milwaukee shut down Bryce Harper and Co. for the second straight night in a win over Washington.

Lohse (4-6) allowed one run and four hits, and had a season-high seven strikeouts against the eager-swinging Nationals, who barely avoided back-to-back shutouts and fell back to .500. Harper, in his third game back from a knee injury, went 0 for 4 with two strikeouts and dropped a ball in left field for the second consecutive game.

Ross Detwiler (2-7), yet another Nationals pitcher longing for run support, was charged with four runs and eight hits in six innings, although two runs were unearned because of Harper's error.

Dodgers 10, Rockies 8

In Denver, Hanley Ramirez had four hits, including a solo homer in the ninth, to help Los Angeles hold off Colorado in a game outfielder Yasiel Puig left early with

a bruised left hip.

Juan Uribe, Adrian Gonzalez and Matt Kemp also homered for the Dodgers, who have won 10 of their last 11 games to climb back into the thick of the NL West race.

Zack Greinke (6-2) struggled on the mound but still earned his third straight win. He gave up five runs in five innings and tied a career high with seven walks.

Kenley Jansen recorded the final four outs to pick up his eighth save in 11 chances.

Tyler Chatwood (4-2) surrendered six runs, five earned, and 11 hits in five innings.

Tigers 6, Blue Jays 2

In Toronto, Max Scherzer worked into the seventh inning to become the first pitcher in 27 years to get off to a 13-0 start, leading the Detroit Tigers to a victory over the Toronto Blue Jays.

Alex Avila hit a three-run homer and Victor Martinez belted a solo shot as Detroit beat Toronto for the eighth time in 10 meetings.

Scherzer (13-0) allowed two runs and seven hits, struck out eight and walked one in 6 1-3 innings. He is the first pitcher to begin the season with 13 wins and no losses since Roger Clemens won his first 14 decisions for the Boston Red Sox in 1986. Both benches and bullpens emptied after Tigers outfielder Torii Hunter took exception to being hit by a high pitch from Todd Redmond in the sixth.

Colby Rasmus and Maicer Izturis each hit an RBI single for the Blue Jays. Josh Johnson (1-3) allowed six runs, one earned, and seven hits in five innings.

Royals 6, Indians 5

In Kansas City, Mo., Eric Hosmer hit a go-ahead homer in the seventh inning, and the Royals rallied after losing outfielder Alex Gordon to a head injury.

Hosmer connected with two

outs off Cody Allen (3-1), one inning after Gordon collided with the bullpen fence while tracking a fly ball. The Gold Glove outfielder remained down on the warning track for several minutes before slowly standing up and walking off the field.

Will Smith (1-1) pitched 1 2-3 innings of scoreless relief for the Royals, and Greg Holland managed the ninth to help Kansas City snap a three-game skid against the Indians.

Holland worked around an error by shortstop Alcides Escobar for his 18th save.

Jason Kipnis ended up with a three-run, inside-the-park homer on the play that Gordon was injured, extending his hitting streak to 14 games. But the bullpen failed to hold the 3-1 lead that he provided, ultimately snapping Cleveland's five-game winning streak.

The start of the game was delayed 2 hours, 37 minutes by a stubborn rain cloud that refused to budge from over the stadium, even though there were clear skies not more than a mile away.

Yankees 3, Twins 2

In Minneapolis, CC Sabathia earned his 200th career win to stretch his winning streak over Minnesota to nearly six years, and Robinson Cano hit a tying two-run double for the Yankees.

Cano had the big swing in the three-run sixth against PJ Walters (2-5). Trevor Plouffe homered against Sabathia (9-6), but the burly left-hander finished seven innings with seven hits and three walks while striking out nine.

Mariano Rivera pitched a scoreless ninth to notch his 28th save in 29 tries in his farewell season.

Sabathia is 11-0 with a 2.01 ERA in his last 12 starts against the Twins with a 2.01 ERA. He threw a season-high 121 pitches.

Minnesota has lost nine of

12. Walters was charged with three runs and four hits in five-plus innings.

Mariners 4, Rangers 2, 10 innings

In Arlington, Texas, Kyle Seager hit a two-run homer in the 10th inning, and Seattle won consecutive games in Texas for the first time in more than a year.

Michael Saunders walked on a full-count pitch with two out before Seager connected against Robbie Ross (4-2) for his third hit of the game. Seager's 12th homer landed in the first row of seats in right field.

Charlie Furbush (2-4) pitched 1 2-3 scoreless innings for the win, and Tom Wilhelmson was perfect in the 10th for his 17th save.

The Mariners last won two straight in Texas on May 29-30, 2012, when they took the last two of a three-game series. They'll go for a sweep Thursday night.

The Rangers dropped to 30-14 at home against Seattle since the start of 2009.

David Murphy and Ian Kinsler homered in the fifth inning against Felix Hernandez, giving Texas a 2-1 lead.

Orioles 4, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Chris Davis hit his major league-leading 32nd homer, and then added a tiebreaking two-run double in the eighth for Baltimore.

Scott Feldman pitched six solid innings in his debut for the Orioles, who held on to win for the fifth time in six games after the White Sox threatened against Jim Johnson.

Conor Gillaspie and Jeff Keppinger singled with one out in the ninth, putting men on first and second. Johnson struck out Gordon Beckham looking and retired pinch hitter Jordan Danks on a bouncer to the mound for his 29th save in 34 attempts.

Darren O'Day (4-0) pitched a scoreless seventh and Tommy Hunter worked the eighth before Johnson dodged that jam in the ninth. Matt Lindstrom (2-3) got the loss.

Feldman looked sharp after he was acquired in a trade with the Chicago Cubs. The right-hander allowed two runs and six hits.

Astros 4, Rays 1

In Houston, Chris Carter hit a tiebreaking three-run shot in the seventh for his second homer of the game, leading Bud Norris and Houston to the victory.

Norris allowed one run and six hits in seven innings as the Astros snapped a five-game losing streak. It was the first win for Norris (6-7) since June 1.

Carter broke a 22-inning scoring drought for Houston with a drive off Roberto Hernandez (4-10) in the second. He connected on a full-count pitch from Jake McGee to make it 4-1 in the seventh.

Carter leads the Astros with

17 homers and his 44 RBIs are tied for the team lead. Jose Veras allowed a hit in a scoreless ninth for his 17th save.

Hernandez allowed four hits and three runs in six-plus innings.

Cubs 3, Athletics 1

In Oakland, Calif., Matt Garza pitched eight sharp innings for his third consecutive win, helping the Cubs to their fifth victory in seven games.

Garza (4-1) allowed one run and four hits in his fourth consecutive quality start. The right-hander is 3-0 with a sparkling 0.90 ERA since yielding a season-high nine runs to the Cincinnati Reds on June 11.

With the Cubs well off the pace in the NL Central, Garza could be one of the top targets for contenders looking for pitching help ahead of the July 31 non-waiver trade deadline.

Luis Valbuena homered for Chicago, and Kevin Gregg pitched the ninth for his 14th save in 15 chances.

Brandon Moss went deep for the Athletics, who had won five of six.

Oakland right-hander Bartolo Colon (11-3) gave up two runs and nine hits in seven innings in his first loss since May 9. He was 8-0 with a 1.66 ERA in his previous nine starts.

Cardinals 12, Angels 2

In Anaheim, Calif., Jon Jay had three RBIs, including a two-run homer off center fielder Mike Trout's glove during St. Louis' seven-run second inning, and the Cardinals ended the Angels' seven-game winning streak.

Matt Carpenter, batting lead-off in front of Jay, also homered and drove in three runs to help keep the Cardinals two games behind Pittsburgh in the NL Central.

St. Louis right-hander Shelby Miller (9-6) pitched six innings and allowed five hits, including a two-run homer by Hank Conger in the second.

Jerome Williams (5-4) was charged with seven runs, four hits and four walks in just 1 2-3 innings for Los Angeles.

Red Sox 2, Padres 1

In Boston, Jonny Gomes led off the ninth inning with a pinch-hit home run, lifting the Red Sox to the victory.

Mike Carp had two hits and scored a run for Boston, which improved to 7-1 on its nine-game homestand that concludes Thursday against the Padres.

Carlos Quentin went 3 for 4 with a double and two singles for the Padres. San Diego has scored just five runs in its five-game losing streak.

Gomes sent a 2-2 pitch from Luke Gregerson (4-4) into the first row of seats above the Green Monster for his second game-ending homer of the season.

Koji Uehara (2-0) pitched one inning for the win.

Joe Sablan Sr. takes Amigos June Ace

 Joe Sablan Sr. gained enough cushion in the qualifying round to keep the Amigos Golf Club's June Ace of the Month title.

The veteran golfer shot a net 59 in the qualifier on June 9 on the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort. He came back at the Kagman course two weeks later, this time played on the west course, and tallied a net

77 for a total of 136 and a three-stroke lead against runner-up Lorraine Babauta.

Sablan Sr. was among the 17 Amigos members who braved the scorching heat in last month's qualifying round and started the tournament with a 40 in the first nine holes. He later got into his rhythm at the turn and fired a 38 on the back for a gross 78. Sablan ended up with a net 59 after deducting his 19

handicap and led Manny Tenorio by four shots. The 14-handicapper Tenorio nailed a 43 on the front nines and was unstoppable at the back with his impressive 2-under 34 for a gross 77 and net 63.

Rounding out the Top 3 in the qualifier was 17-handicapper Ben Jones Jr., who carded a net 64, built off his 40 and 41 on the front and back nines, respectively. Other Amigos

members who joined the qualifier were Frank Guerrero (net 65), Roy Ada (66), John Guerrero (67), Frank Sablan (71), Christina Kim (71), Larry Hocog (72), Babauta 972), Dan Quitugua (74), Felix Sasamoto (76), and Ben Jones Sr. (80).

In the June Ace tournament on June 23, Amigos was down to 14 players, including Sablan Sr. The eventual monthly

winner went on to struggle on the west course with his net 77, but still finished on top of the field, as Babauta only managed a net 72 for a two-round total of 139.


Tenorio fell to third place after submitting a net 81 and total of 144, sharing the spot with Quitugua, who carded a net 70 in the June 23 competition.

Other Amigos members who completed the two-round tour-

namment were Kim (145), Frank Sablan (146), John Guerrero (147), Frank Guerrero (149), Joe Tudela (154), Felix Sasamoto (155), Ben Jones Sr. (162), and Doll Yamagishi (142).

Meanwhile, Amigos will have its July qualifying tournament this Sunday on the west course of Laolao, while the Ace of the Month event will take place on July 21 on the east course. **(Roselyn B. Monroyo)**

At Tour de France, Cavendish edges toward legends

 **MARSEILLE, France (AP)**—Mark Cavendish will never be the greatest Tour de France rider, because he will never win the race five times like Eddy Merckx of Belgium and Frenchman Bernard Hinault. Still, the sprinter with thighs like thick hams could outdo both those legends—by winning more stages at cycling's premier race.

By Cavendish's warp-speed standards, his 24th stage win on Wednesday was a ride in the park. The teammates who led Cavendish to the finish, sucking him along in their wheels, building up his speed, were toiling like clockwork. Stamping on his pedals, head down, thighs pumping like pistons, Cavendish then whooshed off alone for the last 150 meters (yards), leaving everyone else in his wake.

Cavendish was carrying so much momentum and this win in Marseille, France's second-largest city, was so comfortable that he was able to sit up in the saddle and make a hand motion like cracking a whip as he

crossed the line.

One more stage win will tie Cavendish with Andre Leducq, the Frenchman who got 25 stage wins in the 1920s and 1930s, putting him third on the all-time list. Beyond Leducq is Hinault, who notched up 28 wins in the 1970s and '80s. Merckx's monument is 34, won from 1969 to 1975. Jacques Anquetil and Miguel Indurain also won five Tours, but didn't win as many stages as Hinault and Merckx. Anquetil won 16; Indurain got 12. All seven of Lance Armstrong's Tour wins were stripped for doping. This 100th Tour is the first since Armstrong's fall last year.

Cavendish says he isn't fixated on Hinault or Merckx's numbers. He notes that for many riders, winning just one stage—let alone the 11 he needs to surpass Merckx—is a career-defining feat.

"You have to show the Tour de France the respect it deserves," he said.

But then Cavendish isn't any other rider. Before this edition, he collected on average nearly five wins at every Tour since

2008. In 2009, he got six. He won the last four sprint finishes on the Champs-Elysees in Paris, where he is unbeaten since 2009. While Merckx's record is still a way off, Hinault and most certainly Leducq look within Cavendish's grasp.

"Obviously I aim to win multiple stages each year. But to set any goals, any number ... it does one of two things: It sets you up to fail for something or it puts like a mark on what you want to achieve and it can kind of stop you trying to move forward," he said.

Were Cavendish to overtake Hinault, it wouldn't mean he is a better overall rider than the famously bad-tempered "Badger," who was strong on every terrain. But in a sprint, Cavendish has no equal, at least in this generation.

Although Cavendish downplays the chase for stage-win milestones, he is certainly very aware of them. The Tour director, Christian Prudhomme, says that more than a year ago, at the Tour of Oman, he quietly tested Cavendish's knowledge of Tour de France history and

was delighted when he rattled off the names of Andre Darigade, who won 22 stages in the 1950s and '60s, as well as Leducq, Hinault, Merckx and their respective totals.

"He is aware of what does it take ... to become No. 1 on the list of most winning riders ever," confirmed Rolf Aldag, one of the managers of Cavendish's Omega Pharma-Quick Step team.

"He has a chance to make history," he said. "It's a goal, it's a target."

Cavendish would be the first to note that, unlike Merckx, he doesn't win alone. His teammates worked tirelessly to maneuver him into place in Marseille. They helped reel in breakaway riders who scooted off ahead and then delivered him like express mail to within sight of the line.

Omega's Italian rider, Matteo Trentin, surged to the front and pedaled as hard as he could up to and around the final left-hand bend, pulling Gert Steegmans and Cavendish behind him.

Exhausted, Trentin then made way for Steegmans, who

led Cavendish at top speed to the signboard marking 150 meters to go. From there, the man known as the "Manx Missile," because he comes from the Isle of Man, did the rest.

"Perfect, man, perfect," Trentin said.

"The basic plan never changes," Aldag said. "The basic plan is always we believe he's the fastest sprinter and we do everything that needs to be done to try to make him win."

"I didn't do anything," Cavendish said. "Gert went with such speed that I could ac-

celerate off his wheel and just carried on the speed he delivered me at."

Stage 6 on Thursday—176.5 kilometers (110 miles) from Aix-en-Provence to Montpellier—should also suit Cavendish, because it is flat. With his short, muscular frame, he doesn't like steep climbs.

Simon Gerrans of Australia will again wear the yellow jersey, after keeping the race lead on Wednesday's bumpy 228.5-kilometer (142-mile) trek from the beach resort of Cagnes-sur-Mer.

CNMI SENIOR

From Page 32

nior League after whipping India in the second game at Field 3.

The CNMI Junior All-Stars are still perfect after three

games, sharing the top spot with Chinese-Taipei. Hong Kong is in second place with its 2-1 slate, followed by the Philippines (1-2), Indonesia (0-3), and India (0-3). The Top 2 squads after the round-robin play will duel for the champi-

onship and the World Series slot this Sunday at 8am (11am Saipan time). The CNMI's last World Series trip in the Junior League was in 2009 in Taylor, Michigan, where it held a 2-2 record and fell one step short of advancing to the semifinals.

Meanwhile, the CNMI Junior All-Stars squared off against Hong Kong yesterday and will finish their elimination round campaign today when they challenge co-leader and defending champion Chinese-Taipei.

BIG LEAGUE

From Page 32

victory against Saudi Arabia. Jordan Lee Kosam, Jr. anchored the Commonwealth's early attack, as he hit a two-run homer in the first inning, while Shakobe Rangamar added a one-run double.

Kosam homered anew in the second inning, but this period belonged to Donavin Ada, who connected an inside-the-park-three-run homer, giving the CNMI a commanding 13-0 advantage before Saudi broke into the scoreboard at the bottom with its four runs. However, the CNMI got three runs back off Ada's another home run that brought Kimo Angailen home. The third run came off a Saudi Arabia error.

The CNMI went on to keep

its distance in the last three innings, as starting pitcher Tyrese Camacho struck out five and stranded four runs before Angailen relieved him in the fifth inning.

Meanwhile, the CNMI Major All-Stars were scheduled to meet Korea yesterday and a victory would boost their chances for the Top 2 slots in Pool B.

CNMI 5, Guam 0

In the Big League, the CNMI silenced archrival Guam to keep its finals bid alive.

The win was the Commonwealth bets' first after going 0-2 and they tied Guam and Indonesia for second to fourth place with their similar 1-2 slates. Chinese-Taipei leads the double-round robin competition with its 3-0 and was set to face the CNMI bet in the second round yesterday.

Greg Iskawa worked the mound for the CNMI versus Guam and allowed only two hits and struck out three, while the Commonwealth's outfielders helped him out catching several fly balls.

With the CNMI holding its ground on defense, Guam reached third base only once and eventually missed home plate when Bill Quenga was left stranded at third, as the next two batters flied out.

On offense, Poland Masaharu was the man for the CNMI, as he drained a three-run homer at the top of the fifth inning. He also scored the first run in the game in the second inning off Peter Lieto's single. The CNMI's other run was courtesy of Jeremy Atalig's single that brought home Lamar Iguel at the top of the seventh.

50/70 Indonesia 15, CNMI 4

The CNMI missed a perfect record in Day 30 after it bowed to Indonesia in the second 50/70 match over at Field 6.

The CNMI remained winless in the division after three games and is likely to miss the play-offs, as it sits at the bottom of the team standings. Japan is on top of the field with its 3-0 record, followed by Guam and the Indonesia, which hold identical 2-1 slates, the Philippines (1-2), and Hong Kong (1-2).

Indonesia scored eight runs in the first two innings to gain control of the match and handed the CNMI its third loss in as many games after allowing only one earned run. Don Ogo scored the lone RBI for the Commonwealth at the bottom of the fourth inning, as his single drove Francisco Maratita home.

TEAM CNMI

From Page 32

tation papers, but managed to fix them later and Quinn, McCullough-Stearns, and Nekaifes went on to settle at the Athletes Village and toured the facility yesterday.

The CNMI spikers will then spend the next few days preparing for the opening ceremonies and the competition. The 27th Summer Universiade will kick off this Saturday at 3:30pm (9:30pm Saipan time) with the CNMI among the 162 countries participating in the traditional parade of nations. This year's University Games will feature 13,500 athletes and officials participating in 28 sports for 12 days of competition (July 6 to 8).

McCullough-Stearns and Nekaifes would not be seeing action in the Fédération Internationale du Sport Universitaire (International University Sports Federation)-sanctioned event until July 8 when pool play games begin at the Kazanka

Beach Volleyball Centre in Kazanka River Embankment.

Quinn will attend a technical meeting this Sunday to determine the CNMI's grouping and schedule of games. Joining the Commonwealth spikers in the beach volleyball tournament are teams from Australia, Russia, Austria, Germany, Czech Republic, France, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Turkey, China, Oman, Hong Kong, Japan, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, South Africa, Brazil, Canada, Mexico, and the U.S.

With several days to spare before starting their campaign at the beach, Quinn in an earlier interview with *Saipan Tribune* said they will try to have a scrimmage with teams that are not on their bracket to warm up for the competition and get acclimated.

"I don't think the weather will be a big problem when we get to Kazan. It will not be that cold, so our boys can handle that. We just need to play a couple of short games and do some drills to prepare for the competition ahead," Quinn said.

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MLB STANDINGS			
AMERICAN LEAGUE			
East Division			
	W	L	Pct GB
Boston	52	34	.605 —
Baltimore	48	37	.565 3 1/2
New York	45	39	.536 6
Tampa Bay	45	40	.529 6 1/2
Toronto	41	43	.488 10
Central Division			
Detroit	45	38	.542 —
Cleveland	45	39	.536 1/2
Kansas City	39	42	.481 5
Minnesota	36	45	.444 8
Chicago	33	48	.407 11
West Division			
Oakland	49	36	.576 —
Texas	48	36	.571 1/2
Los Angeles	40	44	.476 8 1/2
Seattle	37	47	.440 11 1/2
Houston	31	54	.365 18
NATIONAL LEAGUE			
East Division			
Atlanta	49	35	.583 —
Washington	42	42	.500 7
Philadelphia	40	45	.471 9 1/2
New York	35	46	.432 12 1/2
Miami	31	52	.373 17 1/2
Central Division			
Pittsburgh	52	31	.627 —
St. Louis	50	33	.602 2
Cincinnati	49	36	.576 4
Chicago	36	46	.439 15 1/2
Milwaukee	34	49	.410 18
West Division			
Arizona	43	41	.512 —
Colorado	41	44	.482 2 1/2
Los Angeles	40	43	.482 2 1/2
San Diego	40	45	.471 3 1/2
San Francisco	39	45	.464 4
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS			

CNMI at 27th Summer Universiade in Kazan, Russia

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS



From left, the CNMI's John Nekaifes, Clay McCullough-Stearns, Russ Quinn, and Michael White pose for a group photo with a volunteer at the reception area of the 27th Summer Universiade in Kazan, Russia.



Russ Quinn, Clay McCullough-Stearns, and John Nekaifes pose with volunteers at the Athletes Village.



John Nekaifes, left, and Clay McCullough-Stearns pose at the Athletes Village.



Clay McCullough-Stearns poses for a photo after getting accredited.



From left, Russ Quinn, John Nekaifes, and Clay McCullough-Stearns pose at the arrival area of the airport in Kazan.

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PAGE 29

32 FRIDAY, JULY 5, 2013

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

CNMI Senior All-Stars enter ASPAC semis



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Ian Rogolifoi, seen here swinging during a local youth league last year, plays for the CNMI Senior League All-Stars, who advanced to the semifinals of the World Series qualifier in the Philippines after going 3-0 in pool play.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Senior League All-Stars moved two wins away from earning a World Series trip after topping its pool in the 2013 Asia Pacific-Middle East Baseball Tournament.



The Commonwealth players walloped New Zealand, 3-0, in the first game at Field 3 last Wednesday to finish first in Pool B of the Senior League division. The CNMI Senior League All-Stars are unbeaten in three games and secured a semis ticket in the pool. In the semifinals today, the CNMI bets face the winner of the tiebreak among China, Hong Kong, and Thailand, which hold similar 1-2 records in Pool A. The victor of the standoff has yet to be decided at press time, but Hong Kong may have the edge as it defeated China, 7-3, and lost by only one run to Thailand, 8-9, in the pool play. China earlier shut out Thailand in Day 2, 7-0, before the latter nipped Hong Kong to force a three-way logjam for the second and last semis ticket. The Philippines took the other semis berth in Pool A, as it placed first on the group with a 3-0 record, following a 16-4 demolition of China last Wednesday. The host battles New Zealand (2-1) in the other semis pairing.

Winners of today's semis games will collide for the championship and the right to represent ASPAC in the World Series this Sunday at Field 2 at 11am (1pm Saipan time).

Other details of the CNMI vs. New Zealand game were unavailable at press time, but the win was sweet revenge for the Commonwealth sluggers. New Zealand edged the CNMI, 2-1, in the World Series ticket-deciding game in Guam last year.

The Tony Rogolifoi-managed squad is hoping to bounce back from that painful loss and bring a CNMI Senior League squad back to the World Series. The last time the Commonwealth made it to the World Series in the Senior League division was in 2010 in Bangor, Maine and the team had a forgettable stint in the competition, losing all four games in pool play.

JUNIOR LEAGUE CNMI 7, India 0

The CNMI also boosted its chances for a World Series stint in the Ju-

See CNMI SENIOR on Page 30

Big League, Major All-Stars recover

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI Big League and Major All-Stars bounced back in Day 3 of the 2013 Asia Pacific-Middle East Baseball Tournament.

The Commonwealth clobbered Saudi Arabia, 21-6, in the third game at Field 7 last Wednesday at the Clark Freeport Zone in Olongapo City, Philippines. The CNMI Major All-Stars, who fell to the undefeated Chinese-Taipei (3-0) last Tuesday, 2-12, improved to a 2-1 record and tied Korea and Thailand in second place in Pool B.

An eight-run top of the first inning was all the CNMI sluggers needed to set up the easy
See BIG LEAGUE on Page 30



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Leroy Regis, seen here at third base during last year's ASPAC game in Guam, is playing for the CNMI Big League All-Stars, who barged into the win column in the World Series qualifier in the Philippines.

Team CNMI arrives in Russia for University Games

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Team CNMI made it to Kazan, Russia and is getting ready for the opening of the 27th Summer Universiade this weekend.

The Commonwealth delegates made up of Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White, coach Russ Quinn, and beach volleyball players Clay McCullough-Stearns and John Nekaifes arrived in Kazan early Wednesday morning after a nearly 20-hour trip that had them stopping over in Guam, Incheon, Korea, and then Moscow before reaching their final destination. Once in Kazan, the CNMI delegates had some problems getting their accredi-

See TEAM CNMI on Page 30



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, John Nekaifes, Russ Quinn, and Clay McCullough-Stearns pose for a group photo at the Athletes Villages in the 27th Summer Universiade in Kazan, Russia.